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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

UN may send Namibia force

UN Security Council will meet today to consider a proposal by Dr. Kure Waldheim, secretary general, that 7,500 troops should be sent to assist Namibia — formerly South West Africa — in its bid for independence.

In a written report to the council, Dr. Waldheim proposes the despatch of troops, plus 1,200 civilian officials and 360 civilian police. Their job would be to maintain law and order and arrange elections.

The move would be the largest by the UN since it became involved in the Congo in the 1960s. Back Page

Vaccine queue

Thousands of people flocked to vaccination centres in Birmingham as police continued their search for two holidaymakers who have been in contact with Mrs. Janet Parker, the smallpox victim.

Sithole adamant

Rev. Ndababingi Sithole, one of the three black members of Rhodesia's executive council, said in Salisbury he was against fresh all-party talks and asserted his view that one man, one vote elections must go ahead by the end of the year as part of the internal settlement. Page 4

Trial by U.S.

An East German who hijacked a Polish airliner to Tempelhof, West Berlin, faces trial by an American military court because Tempelhof is a U.S. base. The hijacker surrendered and no one was hurt. Page 2

Korchnoi move

Challenger Viktor Korchnoi, 1-4 down in the world chess championships, has threatened to pull out unless a one-way mirror is installed between players and spectators to block the alleged influence of a psychologist working for Anatoly Karpov, the champion.

Midnight excess

Distributors of the film Midnight Express, set in a Turkish jail, have agreed to cut from the video version a scene in which a turkey is abused. The move follows protests from Holland's 00,000-strong Turkish community.

ope's promise

John Paul, speaking to the Pope of Cardinals, admitted he is inexperienced in central government and promised collaboration with his ministers. But he gave no clue to his future policy.

tonehouse plea

The daughter of former MP John Stinchcombe, returned to jail on Tuesday after hospital treatment, said that jail would kill her father. "I don't think he'll be able to take the mental strain," said Jane Stinchcombe, 29.

The long wait

Long-haul flights out of London Heathrow faced delays up to nine hours as the effects of the French air traffic controllers' dispute continued. One flight for Corfu finally left Glasgow after a 25-hour delay.

Briefly...

UK residents originating in the New Commonwealth and Pakistan numbered 1.58m in mid-1977, an increase of 75,000 on the previous year.

Barnes, Twickenham, who died in March, left £169,358 gross (£167,367 net).

A group of doctors says transcendental meditation should be available on the National Health.

Murder hunt began as fire which killed two men in Tottenham, London, was found to be arson.

BUSINESS

Equities slip 2.8; gold index up 8

EQUITIES attempted a small rally before extending Tuesday's downturn. FT 30-share index, up 0.8 earlier, finished 2.8 down at 503.0. Gold Mines Index rose 8.0 to 181.6 on a sharp recovery in gold shares following rises in New York.

GILTS shorts lost to 1, due to upward pressure on U.S. interest rates. Government Securities Index edged 0.21 lower to 70.42.

GOLD rose \$1½ to \$206½.



August settlement price closed at \$206.50 (207.20).

STERLING fell 45 points to \$1.9410. Trade-weighted index was unchanged at 62.4. Dollar's depreciation was 9.2 (8.9) per cent.

WALL STREET closed up 0.52 at 890.72.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, the U.S. multinational semiconductor company, plans to set up a new plant in Europe. Central Scotland and the Irish Republic are at present the most favoured areas. Back Page

Britain agrees to join Airbus consortium

BRITAIN has agreed in principle to join the European Airbus consortium with France and Germany, but Industry Secretary Eric Varley is understood to be unwilling to force British Airways to buy the new A310 Airbus as an entry condition.

ITT, the U.S.-based multinational, is to undertake a £5m investment programme at its semiconductor plant at Footscray, South-east London. Page 5

MINERS' leaders are to resist efforts by the TUC to stop their attacking the social contract at next week's Trades Union Congress in Brighton. The Government is facing the first public sector challenge to its Phase Four guidelines from 9,000 atomic power workers in State-owned concerns whose pay claim includes 20 per cent rises for some grades. Page 10

BURMAN OIL is selling all its remaining oil and gas exploration and production interests in Australia, in a deal worth about £20.8m, to a group headed by Bond Corporation Holdings and Endeavour Resources. Back Page

FLUOR, the U.S. engineering group, has taken the 237,000 sq ft of available space in British Rail's £2m Euston Square development, the biggest central London office letting for many years. Back and Page 6

COMPANIES

BTR INDUSTRIES is to raise £24.1m by a 1-for-7 rights issue at 250p a share. Page 33 and Lex

BOC pre-tax profits fell to £48.5m (£50.4m) on group sales of £217m (£209.1m) for the nine months to June 30. Page 33 and Lex

PEARL Assurance general branch first-half taxable loss increased to £1.17m (£220,000). Exceptional growth occurred in ordinary branch new premiums.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)	
RISIN	
BOC Intl.	81 + 2
BT	340 + 7
Cement Roadstone	104 + 5
Farmer (S.W.)	147 + 7
Grippitrods	118 + 6
Haggas (J.)	117 + 7
Haw Par	73 + 3
Mowat (Wm.)	176 + 7
Travis and Arnold	176 + 7
Siebens (UK)	382 + 24
De Beers Dfd.	415 + 7
Pres. Steyn	937 + 79
Val Reels	£254 + 11
Western Deep	563 + 70
Witwatersrand	744 + 54
FALLS	
Treas. 8½pc 1983	£90½ - 1

International union bid to save jobs at Chrysler

BY ALAN PIKE IN GENEVA

Trade union leaders from several countries yesterday pledged themselves to international pressure — "including industrial action" — if the proposed Peugeot-Citroen takeover of Chrysler's European operations results in loss of jobs.

The International Metalworkers Federation decided to embark on an unprecedented campaign to protect workers from the effects of a cross-border company takeover.

Union leaders see the ramifications of the Chrysler decision to pull out of Europe and the Peugeot-Citroen offer as an important test of their ability to influence the activities of multinational companies.

The federation last night sent telegrams to Peugeot-Citroen and Chrysler management demanding an early meeting. They also intend to ask the EEC Commission to investigate the implications of the proposed takeover which, they fear, would increase capital concentration and restrict the consumer's choice.

In a declaration after the meeting the union leaders said that it was "intolerable that a multinational company such as Chrysler, deeply in debt to its host Government in the UK, should be allowed to evade its economic and social responsibilities to workers by selling out and running away."

It was also unacceptable that Peugeot-Citroen, which occupied a key position in the French economy, should be allowed to pursue market strategies in the sole interest of maximum profit without accounting for employment objectives throughout the whole group.

Determined

Peugeot-Citroen directors will announce their detailed plans for the Chrysler takeover in Paris today against a background of trade union determination to ensure that they are not accomplished at the cost of potentially vulnerable plants like the one in Linwood, Scotland.

Mr. Herman Redden, secretary general of the Metalworkers Federation which represents unions with more than 13m members, said after the meeting that Peugeot-Citroen would not doubt say that "the sun will be shining over the company for 358 days a year and that not one of the workers' hairs will be touched."

The unions, however, were sceptical as experience of previous mergers showed how easily employees could be made the victims of rationalisation. The unions are demanding that, before considering giving approval to the takeover, the British, French and Spanish Governments must not only

wrest from Bank of America a credit report on BCCI Holdings (Luxembourg) SA, the parent company, last autumn which it expects will support its case that BCCI is not competent to run an American bank.

Mr. Kraus says in his affidavit that he was shown a summary of this report at a meeting with Bank of America in London earlier this month.

But the bank refused to let him have a copy on the grounds that it contained confidential information. However, Mr. Kraus saw it for long enough to retain its main points, which he lists in his affidavit as follows:

BCCI's loan loss reserves of Financial General's attempt to approximately \$3m (£1.5m) were inadequate. These should be increased by almost six times to \$17m.

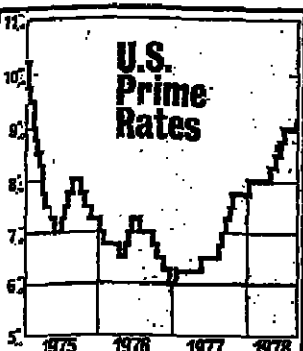
BCCI had engaged in the practice of making substantial "insider" loans.

BCCI's real estate loan portfolio was "unsatisfactory". A Bank of America official told Mr. Kraus that "the amount of BCCI's real estate loans in the Gulf was fairly high and the market is not exciting there."

As a result, Bank of America "had installed a policy" requiring that the Board of directors review real estate loans more than \$2.5m and approve real estate loans in excess of \$5m.

Mr. Kraus says that all these comments were underlined in

Continued on Back Page



Prime rates up ¼% in U.S.

BY JOHN WYLES

NEW YORK, August 30. THE GENERAL cost of borrowing in the U.S. was rising to the highest level since February 1978 today when several prominent banks increased their prime lending rates from 9 per cent to 9¼ per cent.

The move was triggered by Chase Manhattan Bank this morning and was not unexpected in view of the increase in the banks' costs of obtaining funds since the last prime-rate increase on June 30.

Since then, the economy's most important short-term interest rates — the Fed funds rate has risen in several stages from 7½ per cent to 8½ per cent last Monday.

Several important regional banks followed Chase Manhattan's lead, as did Chemical Bank of New York, Citibank, the nation's second largest, may follow suit on Friday morning.

Initially, news of the interest-rate rise was poorly received in the stock market, which looked set to record its third consecutive daily decline. However, the market rallied in mid session after a Government report that new factory orders declined 2.5 per cent in July, and closed narrowly higher. On the foreign exchange market, the dollar had a better day than expected.

The malaise of the dollar, with a larger-than-expected growth in the money supply during August, is thought likely to keep pushing up U.S. interest rates.

Some economists forecast a 10 per cent banking prime rate by early next year.

Mr. Henry Wallich, a member of the Federal Reserve Board, acknowledged today that fiscal and monetary policy had failed to reduce the U.S. inflation rate, which was now "in the 9 per cent area."

He gave warning that inflation would continue to accelerate unless further action was taken and he returned to his advocacy of tax-based policy to offer incentives to labour and management to curb wage and price increases.

He admitted that such a policy would be difficult to administer

Continued on Back Page

Economic Viewpoint, Page 31

\$ to New York		
	Aug. 30	Previous
1 month	\$1.0290-0300	\$1.0445-0465
3 months	0.93-0.97 4/5	0.93-0.99 4/5
6 months	1.26-1.18 1/2	1.22-1.16 1/2
12 months	4.55-4.45 1/2	4.40-4.30 1/2

U.S. bank 'critical of BCCI'

BY DAVID LASCELLES

NEW YORK, August 30.

EVIDENCE That Bank of America, a major shareholder in the London-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International, was critical of BCCI's management and financial policies — including loan loss provisions — has been presented to a U.S. court.

This provides a new clue to Bank of America's reasons for its decision announced previously to reduce and eventually sell off its BCCI shareholding.

The evidence comes in an affidavit filed with the district court in Washington by Mr. Douglas Kraus, a lawyer acting for Financial General Bankshares, the bank holding company which is trying to fight off a takeover by BCCI.

The affidavit supports Financial General's attempt to approximately \$3m (£1.5m) were inadequate. These should be increased by almost six times to \$17m.

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China and Hong Kong in joint property deal

BY ANTHONY ROWLEY

HONG KONG, August 30.

CHINA is to be the majority partner in a joint property development venture in the New Territories of Hong Kong, worth more than \$100m.

The deal, which involves the Hong Kong Land Company and Jardine, Matheson and Co., is the latest, and in some ways the most significant, of a series of capital ventures in which China has become involved here recently.

Because the deal is long-term, it is seen as an indication that Peking is ready to see Hong Kong remain as a British colony until the expiry date of the colony's lease on the colony, which expires in 1997.

China's interest in the new venture will be through two companies, the Kiu Kwong Investment Corporation and the Sun Company.

The deal appears to establish an operative framework for co-operation between two of the colony's biggest expatriate companies and corporate interests controlled from China, which are used in future developments inside China.

Hotel and tourist development in China is one suggested area. The development follows the recent visit to Peking of Mr. David Newbasing, who is chairman of both Hongkong Land and Jardine.

The quadripartite joint venture, established with the approval of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation here, will develop and sell Luk Young Sun Chuen, while Kiu Kwong, which is a township to be built on the podium above the Mass Transit Railway depot in Tsuen Wan, in Hong Kong, and Sun Company, which has "close ties" with China and is also Hong Kong incorporated, will be the majority partners.

The precise form of corporate vehicle to undertake the development has not yet been defined, but the Mass Transit Railway spokesman said that profit-sharing between the corporation and the developers was likely to be in the 50-50.

The Bank of China and Nanyang Commercial Bank, both China-controlled entities, are to provide 100 per cent financial guarantees for Sun Company and Kiu Kwong.

The development contract is likely to be a "multi-hundred-million-dollar" project. It was first announced in June that China, through her commercial vehicle, Kiu Kwong Investment Corporation, was participating in a joint venture with the Sun Company to develop 4,000 flats at the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Tsuen Wan depot in 1981.

Building is forecast to begin in 1981, with completion in 1983. Hong Kong Land and Jardine Matheson will be minority partners in the venture. It is believed with 5 per cent each, while Kiu Kwong, which is a township to be built on the podium above the Mass Transit Railway depot in Tsuen Wan, in Hong Kong, and Sun Company, which has "close ties" with China and is also Hong Kong incorporated, will be the majority partners.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

U.S. court will try Tempelhof hijacker

By Leslie Collit

BERLIN, August 30. AN EAST GERMAN who hijacked a Polish airliner to West Berlin's Tempelhof Airport today faces trial by a U.S. court in Berlin. Tempelhof is a U.S. Air Force base and the American sector of the city.

The hijacker is likely to be given a stiff prison sentence, as the U.S. has long been advocating tough international measures against the offence. The U.S. and six other Western countries agreed on joint action last month against any country that harboured hijackers by failing to extradite or prosecute them. Nevertheless, the American authorities will not return the hijacker to East Germany.

In 1968, a French court in West Berlin tried two East Germans who hijacked a Polish airliner to the city, and a British court tried a West Berliner who shot a Soviet guard at the Russian war memorial in West Berlin.

West German officials are relieved that the aircraft involved in the latest incident landed in Allied-controlled West Berlin and not West Germany. The Bonn Government has come under heavy criticism from Czechoslovakia for refusing to extradite Czech citizens who hijacked airliners to West Germany.

The hijacked Soviet-built TU-134 of Polish Airlines took off from Warsaw and after a stop at Gdansk on the Baltic was due at Silesia Airport, just outside East Berlin. Instead it landed an hour later at Tempelhof.

The hijacker, whose name is being withheld by the U.S. authorities, is said to be in his thirties. He handed his pistol to a stewardess and threatened to kill a stewardess unless the pilot changed course to Tempelhof.

The man was first off the plane when it landed, together with a young woman and a child. He handed his pistol to a waiting police. Seven other East Germans have chosen to stay in West Berlin, and are being housed at a refugee camp. The remainder of the passengers, mostly East Germans, have been returned to East Berlin.

Reuter adds from Stockholm: A Croatian nationalist lawyer sought by Yugoslavia on terrorism charges has fled West Germany and asked for political asylum in Sweden. Mr. Damir Petric, aged 39, is one of eight Croatians whose extradition from West Germany was requested by Belgrade after Yugoslav police seized four suspected West German urban guerrillas earlier this year.

In an interview with a Swedish newspaper today Petric said he was vice-chairman of the Croatian student organisation. He dismissed Yugoslav allegations of criminal activities as absurd.

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DUCELLIER TAKEOVER BID

Lucas urges link with Peugeot-Chrysler deal

By David Curry

THE LUCAS motor component concern has seized on the proposed takeover of the European interests of Chrysler by the Peugeot-Citroen group to press the French Government to authorise its seven-month-old project to acquire the 51 per cent stake it does not already own in the French component maker Ducellier.

While the British Government has given no promise that it will establish a definite link between the Peugeot-Citroen takeover of Chrysler's UK business and Lucas' attempt to purchase the whole of Ducellier, it is quite clear that Whitehall is fully aware of the French delay in replying to Lucas' request.

Indeed, the UK Government is understood to have privately urged Lucas either to push through an agreement with rival French interests over the fate of Ducellier or make a public statement that the negotiations have reached impasse.

Dutch warned of need for spending cuts

By Charles Batchelor

AMSTERDAM, August 30. DUTCH EMPLOYERS' organisations have warned of the dangers of the rejection by trade unions of Government plans for spending cuts.

Unemployment will double to 400,000 by 1981 if the cuts are not carried out, Mr. Chris Van den Broek, leader of the Confederation of Dutch Industry (VNO), said. The Christian Employers' Confederation (NCW) warned that delays in implementing the programme would only make a solution more difficult.

The precarious situation of much of Dutch industry means that many companies will have difficulty surviving even if the 1981-1982 (£2.4bn) of cuts are carried out in full, Mr. Van den Broek said.

The Christian employers criticised the unions for ignoring the enormous economic problems facing Holland. The unions themselves have put forward no alternative solution, the NCW said.

Commenting on the unions' rejection of the plan to restrict the rise in public sector salaries and social security benefits, the NCW said that without such cuts the average industrial wage. Nor will Government plans reduce public sector jobs, the employers argued; they will merely restrict their growth, which would otherwise be at the expense of jobs in private industry.

In an address to the Metal and Electrical Engineering Industries' Association, Mr. Gijb van Aardenne, the Economics Minister, said that support for narrow sectoral and short-term interests would harm efforts to achieve economic recovery.

It will then be in a position to judge what weight it should give the affair in assessing its own attitude to the Peugeot-Citroen agreement with Chrysler.

British officials have already raised the Lucas problem with their opposite numbers in the Anglo-French industrial co-operation committee set up after the Giscard d'Estaing-Collins summit meeting last December.

Lucas' French company is seeking to buy from the Bendix Corporation's subsidiary, DBA, the 51 per cent it owns in Ducellier for £26m (£13.4m). Lucas already owns 49 per cent of the French concern.

This move is opposed by the French group SEV, which is itself owned 70 per cent by the French component concern Ferodo and 30 per cent by the West German concern Bosch.

SEV brings together a number of ailing French component makers under the tutelage of Ferodo as part of the French

Government's efforts to create a French component industry of international dimensions. Ferodo fears that if Ducellier goes to Lucas it will become the man in the middle between the two big European groups of Lucas and Bosch.

In an attempt to reach a compromise with Ferodo, Lucas has already made a series of concessions. These are:

● An offer to split the Bendix stake in Ducellier 50:50 with Ferodo.

● Joint Lucas/Ferodo commercial operations in certain markets.

● A promise to limit the Ducellier-Lucas market share in starter motors and alternators to the 1976-77 level for three or four years.

● Making Lucas' world-wide service network available to SEV.

● Establishment of joint subsidiary with Ferodo/SEV in Spain to compete with Bosch.

Establishment of a joint electrical components concern with Ferodo/SEV in France.

Ferodo itself is apparently insisting that it should control 50 per cent of Ducellier, but Lucas describes its willingness to concede only a 25 per cent stake as the maximum to which it is prepared to go.

Lucas insists that the acquisition of Ducellier is vital to its plans to develop a second major source of supply in France. It claims that the French motor industry favours its bid because it itself needs more than one source of supply. Otherwise, according to Lucas, it would be obliged by common prudence to seek an outside manufacturer to fulfil this role.

In support of its case, Lucas argues that its takeover of Ducellier would rationalise the French market, increase employment (it notes cannily that it has created substantial employment in Giscard d'Estaing's

home parish in the Auvergne) and develop French exports.

The British company is in a difficult situation. In the interests of peace and harmony, it would like the French Government to accept its case without the application of obvious British pressure. But at the same time it is campaigning hard to persuade British ministers to treat the Peugeot-Citroen and the Lucas-Ducellier deal as parallel cases, even though it points out that Ducellier has had none of the public subsidy Chrysler UK has received and represents a much smaller British acquisition in France than Peugeot-Citroen takeover in the UK.

On the other hand, observers feel that if the British Government obtains the probable promises from the French group to assume Chrysler's commitments in the UK, including employment, it may be reluctant to bring Ducellier into the discussion.

Mauritanian minister in Madrid

By Robert Graham

THE MAURITANIAN Foreign Minister, Mr. Ould Mohamed Laghdaf, begins a three-day visit here today as part of the new Mauritanian Government's efforts to achieve an end to the conflict in the former Spanish Sahara.

The visit completes the round of formal and informal discussions on the future of the former Spanish colony that the Mauritanian Government initiated a month ago with all the major parties connected with the issue. This initiative, which has been encouraged by France and well received by Algeria, has come up against strong resistance from Morocco.

As a means of breaking the deadlock and preventing further clashes between the Algerian-backed Polisario independence movement and Moroccan and Mauritanian forces, the Mauritanians tentatively suggested an initial compromise whereby Polisario be allowed to control part of the former Spanish colony at present in Mauritanian hands.

At the same time, President Houphouët Boigny of Ivory Coast has been attempting to act as mediator, promoting the idea of a summit between the countries directly involved in the conflict — Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco.

Morocco, at first silent over these initiatives, has subsequently roundly rejected, at least in public, both the idea of a summit and that of establishing Polisario in the Mauritanian part of the Sahara. A Polisario mini-state remains anathema to King Hassan.

This strong Moroccan opposition has — for the moment

weakened the chances for a negotiated settlement. But the Mauritanian Government is understood to be pressing hard for a negotiated settlement. The Mauritanians are said to feel that their struggle to continue the armed struggle against Polisario will gradually isolate King Hassan and make Moroccan military involvement less easy to sustain on the diplomatic front.

Although France has not publicly put pressure on Morocco, it has nevertheless gone a long way to patch up its relations with Algeria which in recent weeks were seriously damaged by French military backing for the Mauritanian — Moroccan anti-Polisario stance. Spain, too, has improved its relations with Algeria and is anxious for an honourable solution in the Sahara.

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This strong Moroccan opposition has — for the moment

Strike called over Cadiz jobless

By Our Own Correspondent

THE MAIN trade unions have decided to call a strike of all agricultural workers in the Cadiz region of southern Spain to press the Government to provide more special funds for unemployment.

The Cadiz region is one of the areas worst affected by unemployment and funds provided by the Government six weeks ago for public works employment have been exhausted.

The unions are especially concerned at the plight of the younger, those agricultural labourers recruited and paid by the day. There are 7,100 such workers in the Cadiz region who can find no employment, and the general level of unemployment there is now believed to be more

than 16 per cent of the active population.

The Government decided on July 15 to approve a special grant of Pta 2bn (£13.7m) to ease unemployment throughout the region of Andalusia by offering emergency jobs in public works projects. Of this, Pta 172m (£1.2m) was earmarked for the Cadiz region.

However, by this week this sum had been exhausted with roughly 70 per cent having been absorbed by the costs of the materials in the public works projects. The unions estimate that an average of Pta 5.6m (£38,500) is now needed each day.

The strike is intended not only to draw Government attention to unemployment in the area and obtain more funds but to persuade the authorities that the scheme should cover employment for a six-day week and include those under 18 years of age.

Other parts of Andalusia are almost as seriously affected by unemployment. In the Granada region, for instance, there are 20,000 unemployed agricultural workers of whom only 9,000 are covered by public works special employment. In the past six

months, Cadiz has been the scene of several violent clashes between unemployed and the security forces.

Spanish police today reacted with the murder of one of their officers by publicly condemning the Government for failing to act against guerrilla violence.

The Policemen's Association, which represents 85 per cent of the 40,000-strong armed police, said it was "gravely disappointed at the alarming lack of protection suffered by society which we are entrusted to defend. That defence is not possible when weakness of public powers and contempt for the law reach levels now current in Spain."

The strongly worded statement was seen as a retort to the killing last Monday of two policemen and two members of the paramilitary Civil Guard in separate but apparently co-ordinated attacks across northern Spain.

The extremist group GRAPO has claimed responsibility for two of the murders, and police suspect that ETA, the Basque separatist group, was responsible employment. In the past six

Conservatives denounce da Costa team

By Jimmy Burns

LISBON, August 30. PORTUGAL'S Conservative Party (CDS), whose disagreement with the Socialists led to the collapse of the Soares Government last month, today criticised Sr. Alfredo Nobre da Costa, the new Prime Minister.

A party statement issued after the swearing-in of the new Government by President Ramalho Eanes confirmed that the fate of Sr. da Costa and his team remains in the balance.

Only last week the Conservatives were the first to warn to Sr. da Costa's nomination. Now they accuse him of having formed a Government to the left of the Socialist Party. The Conservatives, who were absent from yesterday's swearing-in, regard three new ministers as pro-Communist: Sr. Carlos Correia Gago, the Foreign Minister, Sr. Antonio Costa Leal, the Labour Minister, and Sr. Azeiteiro Pereira Magro, Social Affairs Minister.

The Conservatives are also angered by a statement yesterday by Sr. da Costa indicating that his Government, far from acting as a stop-gap Administration, was prepared to carry out major policy decisions. The Conservatives say the "absolute and unlimited" character assumed by the new Cabinet is incompatible with democracy.

The Socialists have already declared their aversion to an administration of political independents and technocrats. Against this background of discontent, Sr. da Costa has less than two weeks before he has to present his Government's programme to Parliament.

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Rome bomb blast

A bomb exploded yesterday outside the entrance to Rome's main anti-fascist war memorial, the Fosse Ardeatine caves, where German troops shot 335 Italians in a reprisal killing in 1944. Reuter reported. The heavy iron gates to the caves were badly damaged in the explosion, but there were no casualties.

Pay, prices and profits frozen in Denmark

By Hilary Barnes

COPENHAGEN, August 30.

PRIME MINISTER Anker Jørgensen has announced that his new coalition government of Social Democrats and Liberals will put up the value added tax from 18 per cent to 20 per cent and will impose immediately a six-months' freeze on prices, wages and profit margins.

He also today presented his Cabinet of 14 Social Democrats and seven Liberals to Queen Ingrid, the Queen Mother, who was acting on behalf of Queen Margrethe, currently visiting Greenland.

Mr. Hennings Christoffersen (SP), the Liberal leader and an economist with no experience of foreign affairs, becomes Foreign Minister. Other leading Liberals in the Cabinet include Mr. Anders Andersen as Minister for the Economy and Taxation, Mr. Arne Christiansen, chairman of the powerful parliamentary Market Affairs Committee, as Minister of Commerce, and Mr. Niels Anker Kofod as Minister of Agriculture.

The Social Democrats retain Mr. Knud Heinesen as Minister of Finance, and Mr. Poul Søgaard as Minister of Defence. No changes are planned in either defence or foreign policy as a result of the formation of the new coalition.

At a news conference this afternoon, the Prime Minister stressed the contribution which the coalition can make to political stability, against the background of a Parliament in which there are 11 parties and no natural majority on either the Left or the Right. He stated that the main aim of the new Government, which has the backing of 88 members of the Folketing (parliament), was one of a majority.

The combination of increased VAT and reduced government spending planned by the coalition is expected to bring down the current balance of payments deficit to a maximum of Dkr 6.5bn (about \$60m) next year, said Mr. Jørgensen, compared with a forecast deficit this year of Dkr 7.5bn and Dkr 10bn in 1977.

A central role will be played by the government policies for reducing the rate of wage inflation. The Prime Minister said that the coalition will call tripartite discussions on wages and prices prior to the renewal next spring of the two-year collective wage agreements, but he did not spell out any of the more specific measures the Government may use to make wage restraint stick.

Mr. Jørgensen confirmed that plans to build a bridge across the Great Belt entrance to the Baltic will be dropped, but said that construction of a distribution network for Danish North Sea natural gas will go ahead.

W. German Cabinet fails to settle payroll tax row

By Adrian Dicks

BONN, August 30.

THE West German Cabinet put the finishing touches today to the DM 12.25bn package of stimulus measures which it decided in broad terms at the end of July, in compliance with its pledge at the Bonn world economic summit meeting.

In spite of long hours of discussion, however, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and his colleagues were not able finally to resolve the increasingly shrill domestic political row over their plan to abolish the payroll tax levied on businesses by some state governments.

As a result, the overall Bill in which the tax cut measures will be presented to Parliament this autumn are likely to run into influential opposition from the Chancellor's own Social Democratic Party in several major states, as well as from the Christian Democratic opposition.

The main features of the states and local authorities to package, already fixed in July, accept a complex deal to compensate for the DM30bn hole in personal income tax through their revenues that would be higher basic allowances and led by abolishing the payroll reform of the "tax trap" that tax. The SPD-FDP governed catches medium income earners, state of North Rhine — introduction of a DM 9,000 tax-Westphalia, which would be free allowance for family hardest hit by the reform, is support, and increased child however showing no inclination allowances. All these measures to compromise.

are intended to come into force on January 1, 1979.

In addition, allowances for old age pension contributions will be raised, and child payments further increased, on January 1, 1980. Part of the overall cost of shifting the burden appreciably from personal to indirect taxes will be met by raising the standard rate of value added tax to 13 per cent from July 1, 1979.

While most of these provisions have not been changed from the July 25 original draft, the Cabinet and the Finance Ministry have been wracking their brains to devise a formula that would compensate the states and local authorities for the abolition of the payroll tax by January 1, 1980 — to which the Bonn coalition remains fully committed.

Herr Hans Matthöfer, the Finance Minister, now has the delicate task of persuading the states and local authorities to package, already fixed in July, accept a complex deal to compensate for the DM30bn hole in personal income tax through their revenues that would be higher basic allowances and led by abolishing the payroll reform of the "tax trap" that tax. The SPD-FDP governed catches medium income earners, state of North Rhine — introduction of a DM 9,000 tax-Westphalia, which would be free allowance for family hardest hit by the reform, is support, and increased child however showing no inclination allowances. All these measures to compromise.

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AMERICAN NEWS

China may sell crude oil to obtain U.S. equipment

BY DAVID BUCHAN

WASHINGTON, August 30.

CHINA is considering selling exploration and production equipment it hopes to buy from the U.S. oil companies, which it is discussing with four U.S. oil companies, while China had for some time sold limited quantities of refined petroleum products to neighboring countries, the amounts of crude they could offer would be marginal to the needs of both the U.S. and U.S. oil companies. But they also pointed out that the four companies invited to Peking for talks this summer are Phillips, Exxon, Union and Pennzoil.

But reports that a fifth U.S. oil company, Gulf, had actually been offered a quantity of Chinese crude were today denied. A Gulf spokesman said that no such offer had been made, though Peking was known to be keen to increase its oil exports, and that the company had in fact decided that refining the relatively heavy Chinese crude was not an economic proposition at the moment.

Officials at the National Council on U.S.-China Trade said today that China was looking at various ways, including crude sales, to pay for the offshore

at a time when the Carter Administration is keen to improve relations with Peking.

Meanwhile, there are still reported rumblings of serious discontent among senior Administration officials about President Carter's decision a couple of weeks ago to allow the controversial sale of a \$144m oil drilling rig to the Soviet Union. That decision followed Mr. Carter's earlier veto on the sale of a Sperry Univac computer to the Russians.

Both Mr. James Schlesinger, the Energy Secretary, and Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Adviser, are reported to be urging the White House to reconsider its decision on the oil drilling plant sale by the Texas company, Dresser Industries.

With support also from the Defence Department, both have apparently argued that, on political grounds, the sale should not go ahead while current tensions with Moscow continue, and, on security grounds, that the inclusion in the Dresser deal of an ultra-modern \$1m electronic welder is unwise.

There was no indication of how President Carter, now heading back to Washington from his Western holiday, might react to these arguments. But proponents inside the Government of a ban on the Dresser deal regard action as urgent, as Russian technicians have now arrived in Texas to be briefed by Dresser Industries on the plant.

Pressure on Toyota for U.S. plant

By John Wyles

NEW YORK, August 30.

A TEAM from the New York and New Jersey Port Authority is to visit Japan next month in a bid to persuade the Toyota Motor Company to build an assembly plant near Jersey City.

It is not clear why the port authority is doing so, because Toyota is insisting that it has not even taken a decision in principle to manufacture cars in the U.S. A spokesman for the company in California said today that Toyota had examined no potential sites in the U.S., nor had it invited the authority to submit proposals.

Japanese car prices have become increasingly unstable in the U.S. because of the steady appreciation of the yen against the dollar, and many motor industry observers expect Japanese manufacturers eventually to start assembling cars in the U.S. in order to preserve their market here. Honda has taken a decision in principle to build a plant alongside a motor-cycle assembly plant which it is building in Ohio. Nissan, which is the second largest exporter into the U.S., is completing a feasibility study on the possibility of manufacturing here.

Toyota, on the other hand, has been more reticent on the subject although it acknowledges that general discussions have been going on within the company for some time.

NY newspaper hopes rise

BY JOHN WYLES

NEW YORK, August 30.

A GLIMMER of hope was cast on the New York newspaper strike by an agreement of publishers and union leaders to continue talks which began yesterday.

A federal mediator, Mr. Kenneth Moffet, has called the two sides together on several occasions since publication of New York's three daily newspapers was halted on August 9, but hitherto contacts have proved increasingly inconsequential. However, the Publishers Association of New York yesterday tabled a proposal for the first time since the strike

began which, though rejected by the pressmen's union, appears to be providing some basis for negotiations.

The pressmen's union leader, Mr. William Kennedy, welcomed today the fact that a proposal

had been made and said that his union would counter with its own proposal today. The pressmen's union has 15,500 members at the three daily newspapers, the New York Times, the Daily News and the New York Post, stopped work when the publishers unilaterally posted reduced manning levels. They are seeking a new three-year contract which would ultimately reduce pressroom man-

ning by about half. The news-papers claim that overmanning has produced a cost burden which is preventing them from competing effectively with suburban newspapers in the New York area.

Since the stoppage began, four other unions whose members were refusing to cross the pressmen's picket lines and whose contracts expired at the end of March have called their members out on strike. This raises the possibility that the publishers will have to reach settlements with others in addition to the pressmen, before a resumption of publication can be assured.

Carter to lobby for natural gas Bill

WASHINGTON, August 30.

PRESIDENT CARTER, who left on his vacation 12 days ago, is thinking he has finally achieved a natural gas pricing compromise, returns here today to try again to salvage this key element in his stalled energy plan.

There are doubts, inside the White House and on Capitol Hill, about whether the President will succeed in persuading enough Congressmen to approve the controversial gas Bill. The measure would deregulate the price of newly discovered natural gas by 1985 and permit sizeable price increases in the interim.

"It's going to be a tough, close fight but we remain cautiously optimistic," one White House official said yesterday about chances for Congress-

ional approval of the gas pricing Bill.

Another Administration official said chances of Senate passage of the measure hinged on the votes of about two dozen Senators still uncommitted on the issue. "There is a big undecided segment in the Senate and the whole thing rests with it," the official said.

Cutting short his Western vacation trip by two days, President Carter will try to convince those uncommitted Senators that the gas pricing Bill is essential to help bolster the U.S. dollar, among other reasons.

With Congress in recess, and most legislators out of town, the President intends to do his lobbying in two basic ways. "He will

be on the phone constantly" with Senators, said one Presidential aide. In addition, President Carter and other Administration officials will try to enlist the support of various interest groups and urge them to lobby Congress on the White House's behalf.

Tomorrow and on Friday, the President may meet a group of Governors, as well as representatives of farm groups and major energy users to discuss the natural gas Bill. Some key economic officials, including Mr. Robert Strauss, the inflation counsellor, and Mr. G. William Miller, the Federal Reserve chairman, plan to meet top U.S. banking officials today to try to win support for the Bill. AP-DJ

Post row mediator named

By Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, August 30.

THE FEDERAL Mediation and Conciliation Service has named Mr. James Healy, a Harvard professor, to mediate in the postal dispute which is still deadlocked though less close to a strike than last week.

Mr. Healy, a professor in labour relations and an experienced mediator in many industries, will have to bring the postal management and the unions together, at which point the two parties will have 15 days in law to thrash out the main issues of pay and job security. If at the end of 15 days there is still deadlock, Mr. Healy will have to decide the issues himself.

These talks, which were agreed on by both sides to avoid the possibility of a strike, are expected to start by the end of the week.

Merrill Lynch talks

Merrill Lynch is holding preliminary discussions on acquiring Huntco, a mortgage banking and brokerage firm. Reuter reports from New York. If the acquisition is completed, Huntco, Paige would become part of Merrill Lynch Hubbard.

U.S. COMPANY NEWS

Chrysler looks for 10 per cent rise in new car sales; FTC probes Chemtron gases sale; Japanese stake for Data General — page 36

Nicaragua strike spreads and violence intensifies

BY JOSEPH MANN

MANAGUA, August 30.

A NATIONAL strike, initiated in Nicaragua five days ago in order to press General Anastasio Somoza into resigning the presidency, is gaining momentum after a slow start.

Although public transport, banks, petrol stations and hotels continue to function, a tour of shopping centres in Managua yesterday and today showed that many shops had shut down, the owners of some of them having told their employees to stay home until next week. A number of businessmen are offering workers food or partial remuneration for the duration of the strike.

Reports from the provinces indicate that adherence to the anti-government strike is even greater than in the capital. The government, while seeking to play down the protest, has obliged government workers, employees in essential sectors and foreign and domestic banks to stay on the job.

Most Nicaraguan industrial concerns, however, have not yet joined the strike. If this sector moves to support the anti-Somoza action, much of the national economy would be shut down. At the same time, bands of anti-government protesters in the towns of Matagalpa and Estelí have taken control of the downtown areas and are meeting only sporadic resistance from Government troops stationed there.

Youths wearing masks or nylon stockings over their heads patrol the streets of the two towns, firing shots or throwing homemade bombs at soldiers and police. Exchanges of shots occur almost daily between troops and local Rebel Crosses. So far we have of other Nicaraguan towns and more, as well as wounded."

There are quantities of dead. We are still carrying them to their relatives," according to the almost daily between troops and local Rebel Crosses. So far we have of other Nicaraguan towns and more, as well as wounded."

Peru emergency declared

LIMA, August 30.

THE PERUVIAN Military Government took another step towards a confrontation with striking miners today when it put five more mining provinces under a state of emergency.

An official statement issued at the end of a cabinet meeting said that the central Andean provinces of Huancavelica, Junín, Pasco, Huanuavelica and Ayacucho were placed under a state of emergency and constitutional guarantees suspended. Two other provinces were put under a similar regime last week. It accused unnamed elements

of trying to disrupt law and order and worsen the national economic crisis. The Government claims the strike is costing Peru \$2.5m a day in foreign exchange earnings from exports of metal, at a time when it needs every dollar it can get to maintain payments on its foreign debt.

Miners are insisting that some 330 union militants fired over the past 18 months be re-instated to their jobs. But State and privately-owned mining concerns have remained adamant in their refusal to agree to this. Reuter

MEXICAN ECONOMY

The oil that soothes but also irritates

MEXICO CITY, August 30.

DESPITE HUGE oil reserves in Mexico the cancers which have eaten away at the economy for years are still afflicting the country.

The sharp increase in the oil reserve estimates has restored Mexico's international credit rating. Its \$23bn foreign debt seems certain to be whittled down. But, despite the oil-based boom, the private investment needed to create jobs continues to lag. Mexican workers are raising their wage demands and calling for more and longer strikes. The population growth defies solution, and farm problems persist.

It is becoming clear, in the words of a U.S. State Department economist, that "the problems of Mexico will not be solved by oil, and its major problems may well be worsened by it." Indeed, adds a Commerce Department analyst in Washington, "there is a growing school of thought that oil could be harmful to Mexico now. It provides an excuse, a crutch, not to solve the basic structural problems."

However, Mexico has plenty of oil to sell. Probable reserves are estimated at 31bn barrels and low death rate is the worst possible reserves at 120bn. Among other things, President López Portillo is expected to announce another sizeable increase in reserves during his annual state of the nation address on Friday.

But other comparisons paint a different picture. The age pattern of the population of 64m — almost half under 15 years of age — is matched only by masses of countries like Pakistan and AP-DJ

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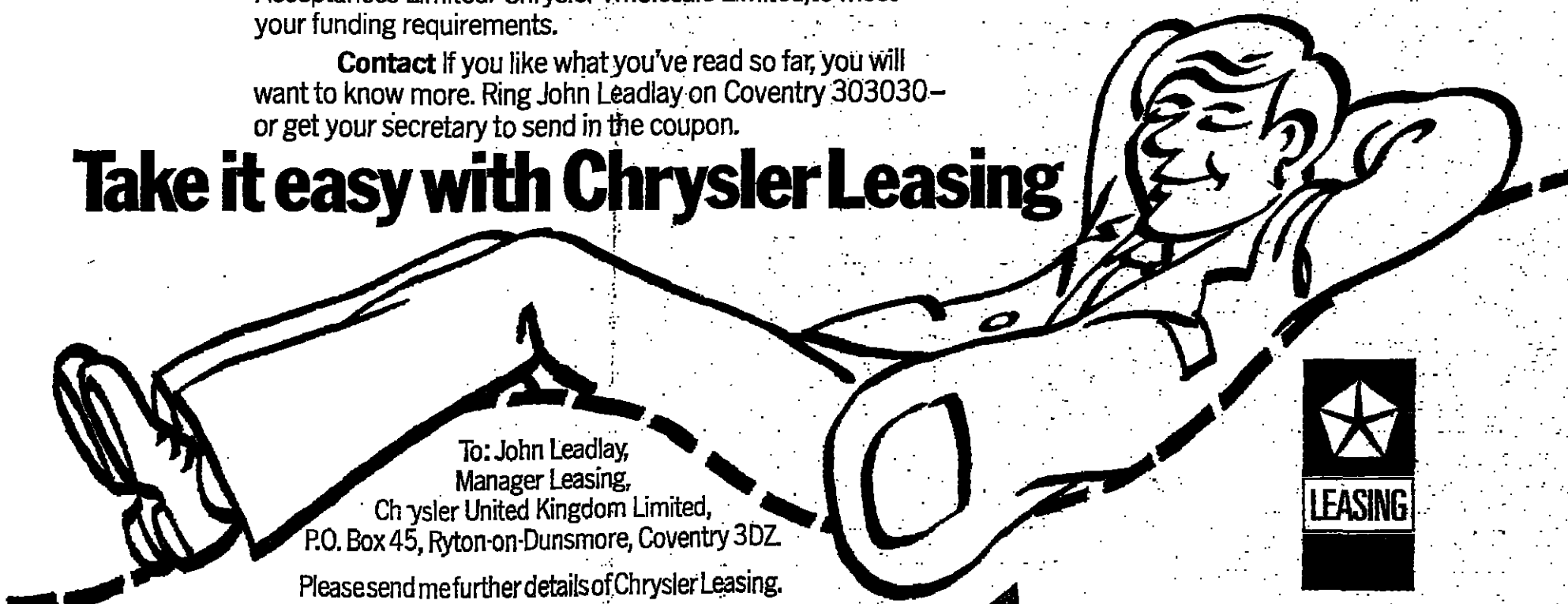
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OVERSEAS NEWS

Sithole takes tough line against all-party talks

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

SALISBURY, August 30.

THE RHODESIAN nationalist leader, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, today declared his opposition to new all-party peace talks on Rhodesia and asserted that one-man, one-vote elections must go ahead before the end of the year as planned in the country's internal settlement.

Speaking at a Press conference, Mr. Sithole said that if only one sixth of the estimated 3m black voters turned out at the elections planned for December, the country would have a black majority Government.

Flanked by senior party officials and before 500 cheering supporters, Mr. Sithole took his toughest line yet against the British and U.S. plan for an all-party conference involving Rhodesia's Transitional Government and the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance led by Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe.

"We are satisfied that the

reason for an all-party conference is to wreck our agreement and we are not prepared to wreck our agreement," he said. Mr. Sithole, one of three black leaders who joined with Mr. Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, in the Transitional Government, in the stated that December elections would be held.

According to the Salisbury agreement must be held or else there is a risk of civil war, he declared.

Mr. Sithole ducked or ignored reporters' questions on how an election could be held when some 7,500 guerrillas throughout the country were pledged to disrupt the polls.

He accused the foreign Press of attempting to denigrate the domestic agreement and said he was satisfied that two million people would vote.

Asked what had gone wrong with the transitional Government's ceasefire efforts, Mr. Sithole said: "Nothing has gone wrong. We know the war is

bound to come to an end before the year is out."

Most observers regard December elections as an impossibility and believe that Salisbury will be forced to attend all-party talks.

Meetings held in tribal areas by Government Ministers in the past few months have drawn tiny audiences. Some meetings have had to be scrapped because no one turned up. Officials blamed guerrilla intimidation.

Another of the black leaders in the transitional Government, Chief Jeremiah Chirau, has, in effect, urged all-party talks. Mr. Sithole, however, said that he would go to the national interest.

Mr. Sithole echoed the anger of other local black leaders at recent praise of Mr. Nkomo by Dr. David Owen, Britain's Foreign Secretary. "If Dr. Owen is so loyal to Mr. Nkomo, then he must crown him not King of Zimbabwe, but King of Britain," he said.

Quality control in Chinese industry

By John Hoffman

PEKING, August 30. CONCERN ABOUT the quality of Chinese industrial products has brought a significant organisational change in the nation-wide machinery-building industry.

Orders have gone out from the central government's First Ministry of Machine Building for the rationalisation of factories and production methods to ensure specialisation and efficient co-ordination. The ministry is responsible for the manufacture of arm machinery and motor vehicles.

Provincial authorities have been told to set up specialised companies and consolidate management, re-group factories according to their products, and raise the technical quality of manufactured goods.

Machinery plants are now widely scattered under diffuse management. Most operate inefficiently because they attempt to integrate all processes from forging to part-finishing and assembly. Competition for materials and markets has led to wasteful production delays, poor quality and high costs.

The industry's reorganisation means that provinces in north China will be responsible for building 50-hp tractors and northern China centres will manufacture the 55-hp model. Eight co-ordinated motor vehicle plants will be set up and affiliated with nearby factories producing specialised parts.

In Peking, 147 autonomous machinery factories have been brought together under the city's new machinery industry department. Twenty group companies have been set up to co-ordinate supplies and production.

The new China news agency reports that the nationwide reorganisation of the industry would take from three to five years.

The change in the industry's structure will overcome the growth of "self-reliance" which became China's preoccupation during the "great leap forward" of the 1960s. Small, self-contained and inefficient backstreet factories mushroomed all over China.

The official newspaper, the People's Daily, recently published an account of a commune's disastrous experience with three tractors it had bought from inefficient factories.

The first tractor worked sporadically for a year before its faulty gearbox failed completely. The second had its cylinder head fitted back-to-front and the engine seized the first time it was started.

The third was so badly put together that it never worked at all.

Mr. Chou te-Chien, the First Minister of Machine Building, travelled to the commune, near Peking, to deliver his personal apology. He repaid the 15,000 yuan the commune had spent on one of the tractors and promised compensation for the repair of the other two.

The minister admitted to the farmers that some factories were producing inferior machines.



President Houari Boumedienne

is not explained solely by higher pay, but also by the centralisation of power which has been so characteristic of Algeria since independence.

Another major but very sensitive problem is the free circulation of information. The newspapers, radio and TV seldom allow any real debate on topical issues and content themselves with singing the praise of the Revolution.

This lack of freedom of debate is having another serious consequence: a number of Algerians trained abroad, either in universities or on the shopfloor of factories in France and Germany, are refusing to go home even though the situation is precarious in Europe.

These problems of social organisation are increasingly important, and liable to prove a much greater burden than shortage of funds.

Although Algeria's debt is fairly high (\$12.3bn, at the end of last year of which \$7.6bn had been disbursed), it is not dangerously so. Furthermore, figures of debt and debt service do not take into account the help from one example—the helping hand of Libya, which earlier this summer lent close to \$1bn on concessional terms.

So far, Algeria has built a potentially powerful industrial machine. The next stage is more delicate. It will have to make the output of the agricultural sector and ensure that the basic social needs of the industrialised society are met.

WORLD TRADE NEWS

Japan plans drastic cut in air fares

TOKYO, August 30.

By Charles Smith

THE JAPANESE Government has made up its mind to propose a "drastic" reduction in international air fares out of Japan in order to remove anomalies caused by the upvaluation of the yen, according to the director general of the Economic Planning Agency, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa.

Mr. Miyazawa told the Diet (Parliament) yesterday that proposals to cut air fares would be laid before the International Air Transport Association (IATA) this autumn. IATA is likely to welcome the proposals since several of its member airlines have been pressing for agreement on a new air fare structure which would bring the cost of air travel out of Japan more into line with costs in other parts of the world.

Prices of international air fares sold in Japan are at present converted from the dollar rate for the same journey if a ticket is bought outside Japan using an exchange rate of \$1 equals ¥236. Since the actual yen-dollar exchange rate is now in the region of \$1 equals ¥250, this system results in air tickets for journeys out of Japan costing

far more in real terms than tickets for the same journey back to Japan bought at the other end. The full tourist class fare from Tokyo to London is ¥300,500 one-way at present, whereas the London-Tokyo air fare is ¥552,500. At the current rate of exchange this works out at about ¥214,000.

Mr. Miyazawa says that the knowledge about this situation and who are paying the full fare have given up buying return tickets for journeys out of Japan because of the savings involved in paying for the return portion of the fare outside Japan. Japan Air Lines says that its ticket agents are ready to explain the situation to customers "if they ask" but the unwary will be told nothing.

JAL, which until recently followed a policy of strenuously upholding the existing system, estimates that it would lose up to 40 per cent of its revenue from international passenger flights if a simple switch were made from the ¥236 to the dollar exchange rate to the current market rate as the basis for computing air fares.

JAL points out that 80 per cent of its staff are paid in yen and argues that yen-denominated costs must be matched against yen-denominated revenues if it is to stay in business.

Despite this, JAL officials admit that changes are needed. One proposal is to split the difference between fares into and out of Japan by raising those denominated in other currencies and lowering yen denominated fares.

The absurdity of maintaining an almost 50 per cent premium on standard air fares out of Japan is made worse by the fact that virtually no progress has been made to date on the introduction of cheap individual fares (as opposed to group fares) for Japanese travellers.

Japan has nothing corresponding to the Laker Skytrain for would-be travellers to the West Coast of the U.S. (or to Europe, for that matter). The result is that whereas it is now possible to travel from London to Los Angeles for approximately the equivalent of ¥35,000 on a cut-price individual ticket, the individual Japanese air traveller

has to pay ¥150,000 for the much shorter journey from Tokyo to San Francisco.

JAL says it is in favour of introducing a system corresponding to the Apex fare on Atlantic routes which would offer a 35 per cent discount to passengers who book three weeks in advance and agree to travel on a specific day. If it does so and if there is a simultaneous adjustment in standard air fares out of Japan, the individual Japanese air traveller may be faced with a situation in which journeys to the West Coast of the U.S. or to Australia, which have hitherto looked prohibitively expensive suddenly become comfortably affordable.

The effect of this on the numbers of Japanese who travel abroad can only be guessed at. However, it must be borne in mind that while Japan has lagged behind Europe in cutting individual air fares, the group discount system is highly developed. It may be no coincidence that the average Japanese tourist at present seems to be happier travelling in a group than on his own.

Angola and S. Africa in PoW swap

South Africa and Angola are to exchange prisoners of war, according to an announcement by Mr. R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, John Stewart reports from Cape Town.

The exchange is to take place with the help of the International Red Cross at a date to be announced.

At least seven South African prisoners of war are held in Angola, while published information in South Africa indicates that a handful of Cubans and possibly a large number of Angolan Government troops are being held in South Africa and South-West Africa. The prisoners were taken in late 1975 and early 1976 during South Africa's involvement in the Angolan civil war.

Meanwhile, about 900 refugees trying to escape from fighting between Government forces and UNITA rebels in the southern Angolan town of Calais, were reported to be stranded on the Angolan side of the Karango River.

Vorster in hospital

Mr. John Vorster, South Africa's Prime Minister, who is 62, is suffering from physical exhaustion and bronchitis. Reuter reports from Pretoria. He was admitted to the Tygerberg hospital in Cape Town on Tuesday for an annual check-up and will remain in hospital for at least a week.

Rennies chief fined

Mr. Charles Fiddian-Green, chief executive of Rennies Consolidated Holdings, was fined \$10,000 (\$2,500) in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday for contravening South Africa's exchange control regulations. Reuter reports. He was convicted on Tuesday.

Kenya rehearsal

A full dress rehearsal was held yesterday for the funeral today of President Jomo Kenyatta. Kenya, Quintin Peel reports from Nairobi. The coffin will be borne from State House to Parliament on the gun carriage used at Sir Winston Churchill's funeral in Cape Town for a week to complete the mourning.

ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT

Focus on hinterland

BY FRANCIS GHILES

ALGERIAN planners are currently taking the third four-year development plan, due to start next January, will probably be submitted to the congress of the ruling FLN party when it meets some time this autumn. This year's programme is a year of reflection "has been devoted to examining the results of the last four-year plan (1973-1977) and while there is much to be satisfied with, a change of emphasis is expected."

Algeria is one of the smaller OPEC oil producers, but with a population of 18m, and one of the highest birth rates in the world, it has plenty to spend its income on. Even before the five-fold increase of the price of oil in 1973-74 it had embarked on a very ambitious plan to develop its natural gas resources and establish a sound industrial base.

Developing its gas resources fast, which meant operating in the vanguard of the new and very expensive technology of gas liquefaction—a gamble. But with oil production having already peaked and with some of the largest reserves of natural gas in the world it was one which appeared to make sense.

Meanwhile agriculture, badly disrupted during the bitter war of independence, was neglected. Production of wheat, which has appeared to have stabilised in the past two years. The country is short of water and arable land, but President Houari Boumedienne, who is of peasant stock himself, knows that more money and help must be given to agriculture if Algeria is not to become entirely dependent on the outside food supplies and if the countryside is not to be depopulated.

However, the development of the oil, and particularly the gas industry (liquefaction plants, a

pipeline under the Mediterranean Sea) will remain the highest priorities if only because oil and gas, until the end of the century, will be by far Algeria's largest hard currency earners. Oil will remain Algeria's most lucrative export until the early 1980s, and then gas will take over.

In industry other than oil and gas, the emphasis will be on increasing efficiency (a number of factories from sheer inefficiency are working at about one-third of capacity which means ensuring better co-ordination between the string of state monopolies which have sprung up in recent years and various ministries).

The results of the last plan are, by most Third World standards, remarkable. Investment was 88.2bn more than double that during the first four year plan (1970-1973) and, according to a recent World Bank report, unemployment in the non-agricultural sector has been reduced by more than a third to 10 per cent.

Since 1970, investment has grown on average more than double that during the first four year plan (1970-1973) and, according to a recent World Bank report, unemployment in the non-agricultural sector has been reduced by more than a third to 10 per cent.

A massive effort has been made to develop infrastructure and water supplies, especially inland. The lack of infrastructure has hampered efforts to site industry inland but the Government is determined to press ahead with the project. The most of the population and its activities being concentrated along a narrow coastal strip.

The symbol of the will to open the hinterland and provide the greater opportunities to the living in the south remains the Trans-Saharan highway, started in 1971. Some 800 km of the 1,200 km which will eventually

link Algeria with Niger and Mali are now open to traffic. A more balanced growth in regional terms will be helped by the decentralisation which the World Bank report says has been vigorously pursued, not least in the agricultural sector where each farm is now responsible for its cropping patterns (the amount of field, tree and vegetable crops it produces).

Despite a slight shift in its favour in 1976, agriculture was the poor relation in Algeria's last two development plans. With irrigation, it only accounted for just over 15 per cent of all investment against 53.6 per cent in the first four-year plan and 45.5 per cent in the second plan. As a result, the growth in production has been sluggish.

The index of agricultural production had only reached 136 in 1978 from a base of 100 in 1961-1965. On a per capita basis the relative decline is even more striking: the index has remained at 88 since 1970.

With improving standards of living the average consumption of food per capita has risen. Algeria therefore imports foodstuffs on an increasingly large scale. In 1977 the country imported one-third of its cereal, and demand for cereals is expected to double by the end of the century, so that the need to increase production is pressing.

Imports of foodstuffs now account for one-fifth of the import bill and the cost to the State is much higher if one adds in subsidies paid on bread, sugar, coffee and tea. In the early 1960s Algeria was still a net exporter of food.

Improving output on the land also means improving the standard of living of the peasants: in a number of areas this is happening, if slowly. The process will have to be speeded up if the drift of people into the cities is to be stopped.

Any minor civil servant in Algeria enjoys a higher standard of living than those who till the land, and pay in the new industries is very high. The lure of the city is powerful, despite impossible living conditions in places like Algiers: its attraction

New Soviet deficit with West

MOSCOW, August 30.

BY DAVID SATTER

THE SOVIET UNION built up a 2bn rouble (£153bn) deficit in trade with the West during the first half of 1978, according to the Soviet weekly Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta. This was one of the worst results in recent years.

The sizeable deficit was particularly striking because it reversed the trend of the previous year when the Soviet Union had a surplus in trade with the West during the last six months of 1977.

The figures show that during the first half of this year Soviet imports of Western goods increased 9 per cent to a value of 5.9bn roubles (£45bn) from 5.4bn roubles (£41.2bn) during the comparable period of 1977.

At the same time, Soviet exports to the West decreased to 3.9bn roubles (£30.5bn) in the first half of 1978 from a value of 4.7bn roubles (£35.6bn) during the first half of last year.

The result was that the Soviet

deficit for the first half of 1978 rose 43 per cent to 2bn roubles from 1.4bn roubles during the first half of 1977, a year in which the annual trade results were greatly improved by the 1977-78 Soviet surplus in Western trade registered during the last six months.

With the need to purchase expensive machinery to help in fulfilment of the 1976-80 Five Year Plan and no early prospect of a decrease in sizeable Soviet purchases, it now appears unlikely that the Soviets will be able to go into surplus with the West during the second half of this year as they did in 1977.

Industrial purchases normally increase toward the end of a Five Year Plan and despite the prospect this year of a good grain harvest, the Soviets will still need to buy grain abroad to feed cattle for meat production.

The prospects therefore are for 1978 annual deficit to far exceed the 1977 deficit, which stood at R1.1bn, the best result in the last three years.

The figures published today show that overall, the Soviet deficit in trade out of total turnover of R34.5bn.

Much of the deficit in trade with the West was made up by traditional Soviet surpluses in trade with the Socialist countries and the Third World.

Total Soviet trade volume expanded 7.3 per cent during the first half of 1978. From R32.1bn during the first half of 1977 with the share of the West declining to 28.3 per cent compared to 29 per cent during the first half of 1977 and the share of the Socialist countries increasing to 60 per cent from 55 per cent.

The share of Third World countries also declined to 11.5 per cent in the first half of 1978 from 13 per cent in the first six months of 1977.

UK recovers ground in France

PARIS, August 30.

BY DAVID CURRY

BRITISH GOODS recovered some of their lost market share in France during the first half of this year. The UK share of the French import market improved to 5.5 per cent (52.1 per cent in 1977) and if they continue at the present rate, Britain should notch up sales of around £249bn this year, some £343m better than last year.

However, this will not be enough to close the trade gap, which was £284.6m in the first half of this year, compared with almost £290m for the same period of last year. Nevertheless, some 61.4 per cent of French sales to Britain were covered by transactions in the opposite direction, compared with less than 68 per cent in 1977, when the British market share reached its low point of 4.4 per cent.

If the figures are adjusted to make exports to France (reckoned in f.o.b.) and imports (c.i.f.) comparable the cover is closer to 90 per cent.

British officials are hoping that next year, aided in some measure by the build-up in sales of crude oil, UK penetration could reach 5.9 per cent, which would translate into sales of just short of £280m, allowing for a 10 per cent inflation rate.

Exports of crude moved from a fairly negligible £10m in 1975 to £92m last year, and were approaching £48m, at the half year in 1978. Agricultural products were another strong factor moving from £225.5m last year to some £160m in the first six months of this.

These two areas, together with components, are expected to be the best growth sectors over the coming years, particularly if the EEC can agree a sheepmeat pact which will favour exports of mutton and lamb to the highly protected French market.

French strength continues to be in cereals and in motor

vehicles, where their sales between 1975 and 1977 moved from £165m to £361m, while British sales to France last year were only £137m.

Despite the improved performance, Britain is very much the laggard amongst France's EEC trading partners, except for Denmark and Ireland. Last year, Germany took 18.5 per cent of the French market, with sales worth almost £7.5bn, while Italy took 8.8 per cent; Belgium, Luxembourg 9 per cent; and Holland 6.1 per cent. Only the U.S. (6.9 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (6.1 per cent) fared with the EEC countries amongst the top seven suppliers to France.

The period of British improvement has been one of steady depreciation of the pound against the franc. From £1 = Fr 9.51 in 1975, it declined to £1 = Fr 8.53 in March of this year.

EEC quotas against Asian shoes urged

MILAN, August 30.

ITALIAN SHOE exporters slumped 7.2 per cent to 121.9bn pairs in the January-May period this year from the year earlier and Italian makers, among the world's largest, again urged EEC quotas on Asian exports in order to prevent a further slump of their sales in the remaining months of the year.

Sig. Oddone Mercantini, director of the Italian Association of the Shoe Manufacturers, told the annual assembly that the present situation was "worrying" following

slackened demand and growing competition on the domestic and foreign markets. He emphasised that under such conditions, control by EEC regulations on imports from Taiwan and Korea was an unavoidable and urgent measure.

Sig. Mercantini said the flow into Europe of the Asian exports of shoes, as a result of quotas imposed in the U.S. and Canada, would greatly hurt the Italian shoe industry.

If bilateral negotiations with Korea and Taiwan are started, he said, next autumn, he closed.

While urging quotas on Asian imports in Europe, Sig. Mercantini criticised the longstanding Japanese quotas on Italian shoes which are cutting to 300,000 a year a potential market of 78m pairs for Italian makers.

Korea and Taiwan are started, for a voluntary cut of their exports to Europe, then the EEC could be greatly relieved," he said. Such negotiations might be started next autumn, he closed.

The period of British improvement has been one of steady depreciation of the pound against the franc. From £1 = Fr 9.51 in 1975, it declined to £1 = Fr 8.53 in March of this year.

BERLIN FAIR

Emphasis on Third World trade

BY MARGARET HUGHES

BERLIN'S 60th Overseas Import Fair was opened here today by Dr. Detlev Rohwedder, Secretary of State at the Bonn Economics Ministry.

With Partners for Progress as the theme, the Berlin fair aims to promote trade between Western Europe and overseas countries, with the emphasis on developing nations. It is supported by the EEC Commission and the International Trade Centre in Geneva. Some 1,000 organisations are participating from 80 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Near and Middle East, as well as exhibitors from the U.S. and Japan. The exhibits are mainly consumer goods, such as textiles, carpets, leather ware, handicrafts, jewellery and food, though there are some more technical products.

Given that most participants are from the developing nations, the need to maintain free trade and keep the industrialised markets open to exports from the Third World inevitably dominated the opening speeches. Dr. Rohwedder placed particular emphasis on the importance of that in the long term they would be able to integrate themselves

as partners on an equal basis in the world economy.

Trade policy with regard to the developing countries was, therefore, "a test of the credibility of industrialised nations. If industrialised countries restrict access to their markets, then this can only be interpreted as a repudiation of the aim of the economic development of the Third World. On the other hand,

conference on technical co-operation among developing countries, he said there was a need to accelerate exchanges so that institutional facilities were available for increased trade, monetary development and financing arrangements.

The UN Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, endorsed the move for greater exchanges among developing countries to improve their economies, reports K. K. Sharma from Buenos Aires. Speaking at the opening of a two-week

decision not to close markets represents an important prerequisite for giving the developing countries a chance to make a suitable contribution to the general reorganisation of world trade in increased growth."

He placed particular emphasis on the expansion of trade on a preferential basis, such as improvement of preference schemes, special advantages favouring the poorest countries, and technical assist-

ance for the better utilisation of preferences.

This view was endorsed by M. Michel Hauswirth, Deputy Director of Development at the EEC Commission, who said that one of the aims for 1978 must be to improve utilisation of preferences through introduction of differentiation to allow the poorest countries to take greater advantage of the system. So far only three in a more favourable financial position or those with a more dynamic economy had utilised the opportunities fully.

In addition, trade must be actively encouraged, and the EEC regarded the Overseas Import Fair as "one of the preferred places" for helping to promote trade and economic development. As a result, more than 20 of the countries represented at the fair have received financial support for their participation from the EEC.

M. Hauswirth admitted that competition from exports from developing countries represented a major problem for the EEC in terms of economic crisis, but this should not jeopardise freedom of trade. He said the solution to these problems must be sought in an open dialogue between the partners involved.

CREDIT LYONNAIS

Mr. Jean Delafosse has been appointed head of all the international activities of Credit Lyonnais. His immediate deputy will be Mr. Georges Sarrailh.

Mr. Delafosse succeeds Mr. T. de Rhodde de Chavigny who has retired from the bank. Mr. Michel Miellet is General Manager of the Credit Lyonnais U.K. branches.

John Colledge

That starts Scotti camp

WORK BRITAIN

The re Chedd fights way ba

HOME NEWS

Thatcher starts Scottish campaign

By Ray Fernan, Scottish Correspondent

MRS. MARGARET THATCHER arrived in the Scottish Borders last night to begin a tour which effectively opens her party's election campaign in Scotland, where significant Tory gains are considered possible.

Although lagging badly behind Labour in the opinion polls, the Conservatives could profit from the slump in support for the Scottish Nationalists and win back five or six of the nine seats lost to the Nationalists in 1974.

Also, in Berwick and East Lothian, vacant since the death of Professor John Macdonald, Tories believe they have a chance of regaining the seat lost in October, 1974, when Labour's majority was 2,740.

Mrs. Thatcher will spend most of tomorrow in Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, seat of Mr. David Steel, the Liberal leader, where the Conservatives hope to overturn the 7,433 Liberal majority.

Richard Evans, Lobby Editor, writes: "The Conservatives can afford to care, Labour can't" was the theme last night of the third in the series of highly professional party political broadcasts made for the Tories by Saatchi and Saatchi, Garland Compton.

Instead of an outright attack on Labour policies, the broadcast acknowledged that the Government meant well and was full of good intentions, but had not developed the resources to pay for improvements in social services, education and health care.

A related message was that since the war every Labour government had increased income tax, whereas every Conservative government had reduced taxes while increasing social services.

Mr. William Whitelaw, deputy leader, summing up the broadcast, said that the Labour Party was always talking about caring but talking was not enough.

It was a fundamental part of Conservative policy to encourage people to look after themselves to the best of their ability, but those who were too young, too old or too sick were entitled to expect all the help and compassion that we could give them, he added.

Today the Tories will launch a cinema advertising campaign.

Lords urge changed attitude to boycott

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

THE GOVERNMENT is accused today of condoning some of the most discriminatory aspects of the Arab boycott while verbally endorsing it.

The charge comes from a Lords Select Committee, which proposes sweeping changes in Government attitudes towards the boycott.

The committee wants the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to cease authenticating certificates of origin required by some Arab countries, and calls these documents "among the most discriminatory forms of the boycott mechanism."

The Foreign Office has so far resisted calls for this kind of reform.

Public funds should also be withheld from companies seeking assistance to secure contracts with boycott clauses.

This was the only suggestion on which the committee's nine members, headed by Lord Redcliffe-Maud, were not unanimous.

Britain should back an EEC initiative for community-wide action against the Arab boycott and there should be stronger diplomatic intervention with Arab States when British companies are in trouble with the boycott.

The committee spent four months studying the Foreign Boycotts Bill, sponsored by Lord

Byers, the Liberal peer, who was also one of its members.

It decided unanimously not to send the Bill back to the Lords for a Third Reading, because of its potential damage to Arab-
British trade and the widespread hostility to it among British businessmen.

But it has left open possible future legislation if the measures proposed do not reduce the boycott's impact.

The Byers Bill was modelled on the 1977 Amendment to the U.S. Export Administration Act.

But Lord Redcliffe-Maud said yesterday that the committee had been unable to draw conclusions from the U.S. experience, even though the "Cassandra-like prophecies" of the direct effects of U.S. legislation had not materialised.

In the past, Governments have verbally deplored the secondary and tertiary aspects of the Arab boycott, telling companies to decide for themselves how to act on their commercial interests.

The committee says that Parliament and the Government "should set the political context" in which companies make such decisions.

The boycott does not necessarily seriously damage trade

prospects, and companies are urged to pursue all business opportunities with courage and enterprise. The Government should help by assisting trade promotion, rather than by discouraging compliance with the boycott.

It should also urge companies receiving boycott requests to report them voluntarily to the Trade Department.

This could enable publication of statistics to monitor the boycott, but otherwise information could remain confidential.

The proposal on withholding public funds is tentatively phrased, reflecting disagreements in the committee.

Two members, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, a former Tory Agriculture Minister, and Lord McCarthy, a NuBfield don who takes the Labour whip, said that it would reduce Britain's export potential and penalise companies legitimately exercising their commercial judgment.

The majority says that companies needing help to secure contracts including boycott conditions, they should go to the open market, not the taxpayer, for that money.

Report of the Select Committee on the Foreign Boycotts Bill (SO); Report and Minutes £2.95; Minutes of Evidence £4.60; Editorial Comment Page 14

Building material sales up 21%

By Michael Cassell, Building Correspondent

SALES of building materials in the UK were nearly 21 per cent up in June compared with the same month last year, according to the National Association of Builders' and Plumbers' Merchants.

Sales by builders' merchants in the 12 months to the end of June were nearly 5 per cent up on the previous year.

The federation said that the more buoyant picture was evident in all regions, with particularly bright spots in the Midlands and the North West.

Mr. Reg Williams, director of the federation, commented: "The

trend is most encouraging. For the third month in succession all regions have shown an improvement."

At this time of year one would expect an increase in building activity as contractors take advantage of the fair weather and longer hours of daylight—but the increase in these figures exceeds the usual seasonal upturn.

The federation's figures reflect the trading position of 95 per cent of Britain's builders' merchants and confirm a brighter picture for construction output. Work levels are expected to rise by about 2.3 per cent this year, the first increase in output since 1973.

Top steel finance man for GKN

By Roy Hodson

MR. WILLIAM G. McLUISKIE, financial controller of the British Steel Corporation, is leaving for a financial post with GKN, the private sector steel makers and engineers.

British Steel said last night that the move was a "logical business promotion."

Mr. McLuskie, who has special responsibility for BSC's Treasury operations, is one of three controllers responsible to Mr. Claude Osborne, BSC's director of finance, who in turn reports to Mr. Frank Holloway, the managing director for finance.

His departure is the latest in a series of middle and senior management resignations from British Steel.

The trend has gathered pace in recent months as Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman, has made clear that it is the corporation's policy to make drastic reductions in white-collar staff as works are closed and shop-floor jobs lost.

Some 15,000 steel working jobs have gone in the last year. A number of head office departments providing services for the steelmaking divisions have been run down to staffing levels only half the size of five years ago.

Some of the biggest staff reductions have been in the finance department, the legal department, and information services.

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At the conference (from left): Mr. E. H. Bouillonn, Mr. E. Rubythorn and Lord Beswick

French air chief attacks Britain over U.S. link

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

LEADERS of the British and French aerospace industries disagreed yesterday over the extent to which co-operation with the U.S. would be in Europe's long-term interests.

General Jacques Mitterrand, chairman and chief executive of the French Aerospatiale group, told delegates at the Financial Times World Aerospace Conference in London that it was unrealistic for Europe's aerospace industries to attempt compromise on future projects by "playing European in one programme and playing American in another."

Europe's makers must either develop their family of aircraft or join a U.S. maker. There could be no compromise. Two aircraft, even of different sizes, would compete.

The comments were a thinly disguised attack on possible two-fold collaboration by Britain with U.S. and European aircraft manufacturers.

Lord Beswick, chairman of the nationalised British Aerospace Corporation, said that when international collaboration was complete "the potential of Europe will be linked at important points with the immense resources of the U.S."

Lord Beswick believed it wrong to develop a fortress Europe or a fortress America mentality. He had always preached that narrow nationalism was incompatible with the meaning or purpose of air transport.

General Mitterrand said that there were only two possible choices for the European aerospace industries. The more challenging option required a financial effort that did not exceed national capabilities.

The risk was that its success would depend on penetrating a market held strongly by the U.S. However, sales of the Airbus suggested that such an objective was not stupid, he said.

Sub-contractor

The second solution for future projects was safer in that it took advantage of the strong commercial position of U.S. aerospace companies. However, that advantage would have to be paid for.

A European partner would very probably be seen as a junior partner, limited to the role of risk-sharing sub-contractor.

France, West Germany, Spain and the Netherlands had chosen the European game when they decided to extend the Airbus family to the new A130.

Britain had been invited to join that programme and General Mitterrand said: "We should know in the very near future if our British friends have chosen to accept this invitation or join a U.S. partner."

Lord Beswick, in a prepared speech after the general's comments, reaffirmed that British aerospace had decided in principle to opt to join Airbus Industrie. There would not be a short-term advantage in doing so, but there might be long-term gain.

British Aerospace wanted to finance as a partner in a co-

tinuing civil programme as well as in a specific new civil project. Collaboration was not to be confused with sub-contracting. Britain wanted and welcomed the opportunity fully to exploit its proven civil aerospace capability.

Last December, Lord Beswick signed a memorandum of understanding with Aerospatiale, the German M.B.B. and the German-Dutch VFW-Fokker. That confirmed plans to continue definition of the B10 Airbus and to invest in a 120 to 160-seater variant.

Those discussions had continued, but agreement on a matter involving many millions of pounds and affecting British aerospace policy for the next 20 to 30 years must take time, he said.

Lord Beswick gave warning that any imminent decision by the British Government about a commitment to future collabora-

tion would be significant only if matched by similar action in West Germany and France. He emphasised the strength of British Aerospace. On vesting day, when private British aircraft companies were formally taken into public ownership, the order book stood at £1,500m. It now stood at £2,500m and was still rising.

However, four-fifths of the orders were for military aircraft and weapons and 69 per cent of the total was military. British Aerospace wanted to improve the balance between the military and civil side.

Speaking on aero engines, Sir Don Pepper, vice-chairman of Rolls-Royce, said that the greatest new developments were taking place in designs for aircraft with 230 seats and fewer. The focus had for long been on the 160-230-seater.

Below the 30,000-55,000 lb thrust bracket, new engine developments were called for. In the long term, those would be new engines, with derivative engines more numerous in the short term.

Sir Donald predicted that supersonic flight would reach profitable levels of performance from continuing research. Routine four-hour flights over the Atlantic would be possible in the longer term.

That growth, Mr. Bouillonn said, would create an "awesome, traumatic, profound and immense" impact on earthbound portions of society. Threats from conservationists to current airline services and future expansion and to be countered with wise policies.

"We must give greater recognition to the impact we are causing upon other aspects of society, and, more important, prepare those leaders who must manage solutions."

The world air travel industry was overwhelmed by structural and political changes. Manufacturers and all interested in the industry must act together, or otherwise would be the victims of the industry's future. The industry's basic foundations must be redesigned more permanently.

The main object must be to establish a strong financial basis for operations. The politics of war were had to be replaced by the rationale of adequate yields and subsidies had to be minimised.

A second object must be improvements in passenger handling and security. The benefits and appeal of air travel were being taken for granted.

There was a case for government extending the special credentials of diplomats to enable more qualified travellers to move more freely with less clearance processing.

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Jobless rise 'not so sharp'

BY DAVID FREUD

THE SHARP rise in unemployment over the last two months may have been largely artificial, according to Economic Trends, published today by the Central Statistical Office.

Standard statistical adjustments made to eliminate seasonal factors seem to be out of date because of changes in the labour market structure.

This means that there has been a summer unemployment "bump" in 1978 and 1977 in the seasonally-adjusted total, excluding school-leavers, which is officially regarded as the best indicator of the underlying trend.

For this reason the present rise in unemployment is thought to be due largely to inadequate seasonal adjustment and mirror the experience of the previous two summers.

The article, which describes an investigation by the research branch of the Statistical Office

into the problems of adjusting the figures, concludes that if the components were separately adjusted the summer total would rise less sharply, if at all.

Separate adjustment would even out the summer humps, although the decline over the

nine months from last September would have started later and have been less steep.

The Statistical Office says that the studies described in the article do not imply that changes should be made in the methods of seasonal adjustment used by the Department of Employment.

There is a danger that the

maintenance work on production plants was only two possible choices for the European aerospace industries. The more challenging option required a financial effort that did not exceed national capabilities.

The risk was that its success would depend on penetrating a market held strongly by the U.S. However, sales of the Airbus suggested that such an objective was not stupid, he said.

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The real Cheddar fights its way back

SOMERSET has its own version of cheese lore: the origin of the Cheddar species, so the story goes, can be traced back to the interior of a Cheddar Gorge cave. On a summer day in the mists of time, it is said a young shepherd, tired from tending his charges through the spectacular two-mile crease in the Somerset countryside, threw himself down for a nap without touching his bread, or the milk stored in a newish pike stone vessel.

The boy slept on, the pike's stomach seeped its rennet, the milk mutated, and presto—lunch for a hundred generations of ploughmen.

As with most folk tales, there is probably a crumb of truth there somewhere. But the fact is that in the world's family of cheeses, Cheddar is almost an infant.

Cheese has a history extending back at least to classical Greece, when Olympic athletes trained on the goat's milk variety with its "presence" which can drop an ox. Cheddar, on the other hand, has been made in the countryside surrounding the Gorge only since the late 15th century.

Since then, and particularly during this century, the manufacture of the nutty, densely-textured cheese has spread around the world. The Canadians are particularly good at making it; there is even a Chinese Cheddar. But say the core of farmers producing the cheese by traditional methods within a 30-mile radius of the Gorge, none of it is quite like the real thing.

John Green, whose Mulberry Farm, near Glastonbury, turns out an average of a ton a day of farmhouse Cheddar, believes that the answer lies largely in the soil: that the linearity of creosotes, at which milk enters the region imparts to its grass and water a fine balance of trace minerals which leads in turn to a milk particularly suited to the Cheddaring process.

It is all highly subjective, of course. But with the help of the Milk Marketing Board the farm-



Mr. David Higdon (right) during the Cheddaring process

were down to little more than a handful in the late 1400s, have secured a firm niche in the UK market for product which, at a price premium which may vary up to 35 per cent on factory-produced Cheddar, sells itself on an image of extra flavour and sophistication over the factory cheese.

Thus of the 166,000 tons of Cheddar produced in the UK last year, some 17,500 tons came

association, used calves' stomachs to get cheese-making under way. Then the process was somewhat haphazard, but there are still a hundred things that can go wrong even today; cheese, after all, is a living thing," points out Mr. Alvis. But the inability to control temperature, changing cow diet and hygiene problems—all of which can have a tremendous impact on how the cheese turns

curds from the whey; the curd, the embryo cheese, goes into a large cooling tray, the whey is drained off and will soon be served up to the local pigs.

It is at this stage that the actual Cheddaring takes place: Green's staff of three—his son has also joined the business—cut the curd, now looking like a giant portion of scrambled egg, into oblong blocks which are turned by hand end over end, to help them compact and to drain off the remaining whey.

Three hours after the process started you know you've got a good cheese if the curd at this stage has the consistency of a nice bit of chicken breast," says Green. Again the curd is broken up, acidity levels are checked, and all being well the curd is packed into tub moulds which 24 hours later will turn out cheese-cloth-wrapped 60lb cylinder of young Cheddar.

The process is similar at the other farmhouse cheese-makers' creameries, although even among the traditionalists John Green's great-grandchildren have been giving way rapidly to the more easily handled 20kg blocks.

Blocks now account for 70 per cent of the farmhouse makers' production, and John Alvis, whose own creamery turns out 7,000-8,000 lb of block Cheddar a day, insists that the difference between farmhouse and factory Cheddar lies in its handling and the individual attention it receives rather than the form it finally takes.

John Green is not so sure. With the traditional barrels of cheese the maturing process—the average age for a good mature Cheddar is nine months or so—takes place in the open air, the cheeses need to be turned almost daily and there is a weight loss of about 10 per cent between manufacture and maturity. With the block cheese, maturation takes place entirely within a sealed polythene wrapping.

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Iberia predicts 40% loss in Gatwick move

By James McDonald

IBERIA, the Spanish airline, says it might lose at least two-fifths of its total revenue from British traffic next year as a result of the British Government's decision to transfer scheduled air services to the Iberian peninsula—Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar.

In a full year the loss in revenue of UK-based business might reach three-fifths, Mr. Mariano Salas, Iberia's general manager for the UK, Eire and Iceland, said in London yesterday.

Although the matter was to be discussed by the British and Spanish Governments, Mr. Salas emphasised that Iberia was not a "100 per cent" holiday airline: 97 per cent of its traffic revenue came from business travel and freight. Much of that could not be accommodated at Gatwick.

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Our Client, a large American Bank with its London branch being a major contributor to bank profits, requires a qualified Accountant to develop and control management information procedures. Using a thorough knowledge of U.K. tax laws and two to three years' post-qualification experience in the financial sector, he or she will run the Expenses Control and Management Reporting Departments and report direct to a Senior Operations Manager. Familiarity with management information systems is necessary in order to develop the cost accounting system. This is a fine career opportunity to enter a progressive and meritocratic organisation in a functional role. Location: City.

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David Clark Associates

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HICKING PENTECOST & CO LTD

GROUP SECRETARY

Hicking Pentecost & Co Ltd is a Public Company in the Textile Industry. The Group operates eleven factories with fifteen hundred employees and has a turnover in excess of nine million pounds.

A Solicitor, Chartered Secretary or Qualified Accountant aged 30-45 is now required to fill the post of Group Secretary. The Group Secretary is based in Nottingham and is directly responsible to the Chairman of the Group for the control of secretarial, share registration, pension and insurance work for the Company and its subsidiaries. He/she is also required to advise the Management on legal and property matters.

The commencing salary will be about £7,000 per annum and there will be the use of a company car. Applications should be made in writing giving full details of education, qualifications, experience and salary required to the Group Secretary at Queen's Road, Nottingham.

Orion Bank Manager— Accounts Department

An Excellent Management Opportunity in a Dynamic Environment

Orion Bank is a multi-national investment bank in the City which has gained an enviable reputation within the international sector.

Following recent internal re-organisation, the Bank requires a mature disciplined person with the ability to lead and manage an expanding Accounts Department with the emphasis on proven managerial ability.

Candidates should possess a comprehensive knowledge of accounting systems within an international Banking environment, a relevant professional qualification, and should demonstrate a sound understanding of management accounts preparation, computerised accounting systems, and possibly Eurobond accounting principles.

In addition, the successful candidate, who will probably be aged 35-45 years, must have the personal attributes essential to lead and motivate a team within an enthusiastic and dynamic atmosphere.

This is a managerial appointment, and the importance attached to this function by the management is reflected in the competitive salary offered, together with an attractive fringe benefits package which includes preferential house loan facilities, non-contributory pension and family medical insurance.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and addressed to:

The Personnel Director,
Orion Bank Limited, 1 London Wall, London EC2Y 5JX
Tel: 01-600 6222

ORION

Management Accountant

As a result of a recent promotion, a vacancy now exists within our Finance Department for an experienced Accountant, well-versed in management accounting, budgeting and tariff calculations. The main responsibility of the job is to help one of our major departments to prepare budgets, five year plans and cash forecasts, interpret monthly reports, monitor and revise tariffs and set standard labour costs. There is also involvement in the preparation of capital expenditure proposals, and, as the link between Finance and Settlement Services Department, in advice on financial policy, preparation of ad hoc reports on accounting matters, and interpretation of guidelines and instructions.

The job calls for a qualified accountant (ACA, ACMA, ACCA), probably in his/her thirties, and capable of accepting a high degree of independence.

Salary is likely to be in the region of £8,500. Other benefits include non-contributory pension, life insurance and disability schemes, free membership of BUPA, L.V.s, five weeks' holiday and season ticket loan.

Please telephone for an application form, or write fully to Phil Mountford, Manager, Personnel Services, The Stock Exchange, London EC2N 1HP (01-588 2335 ext. 8086).



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S.W. Essex. to £9,000 + car.

The very successful transport services subsidiary of a major UK group seeks a Controller. This is a total modern controllership, with minor exceptions. There is considerable scope to improve operating efficiency and profitability. Existing staff (and EDP) support is good. Salary will be augmented by a company car and 'leased' car if required.

Candidates should be Chartered Accountants aged 27 or over. Essential experience is (a) the preparation of statutory accounts and (b) performance reporting and cost control in a reasonably advanced environment. The company is a recent group acquisition so it is not yet possible to forecast movement to the parent company. However, planned local growth should provide more than enough in the way of prospects. This is an equal opportunity appointment.

For a fuller job description write to John Courtis & Partners Ltd., Selection Consultants, 78 Wigmore Street, London W1H 9DQ., demonstrating your relevance briefly but explicitly and quoting reference 795/ET.

JC&P

INVESTMENT MANAGER

Fidelity Management are seeking an experienced Investment Manager for its London Office. An opportunity arises for a man or woman who has had several years' solid experience of managing internationally diversified portfolios on behalf of institutions. Specific responsibilities will include coverage of the major Continental European markets with special emphasis upon equities. This is an opportunity to join a major investment management firm at an exciting time in the development of its international business. An attractive compensation package to include salary, bonus, pension and other fringes is wide open to negotiation.

Applications, which will be treated with the strictest confidence, should be submitted to:

Jim Tunner,
Fidelity Management & Research (U.K.) Ltd.,
64 Cannon Street, London E.C.4.
(Tel: 01-248 4891.)

Cambridgeshire

C&L

Up to £12,000 + car

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

The Client

The potential of this rapidly expanding company, which manufactures and markets a well known consumer product, the leader in its field, is demonstrated by its dramatic growth over the past 5 years. From sales of less than £0.2 million in 1973 turnover is currently running in excess of £2.5 million a year. Profits have been consistently good and prospects of substantial future growth, both at home and overseas, are excellent.

The Job

Reporting to the Chief Executive of the U.K. division with a functional link to the Group Financial Director, responsibility is for the financial and management accounting functions. The initial emphasis will be on ensuring that standard costing systems are properly developed and implemented.

The Candidate

Must be a qualified accountant with substantial production and management accounting experience, gained preferably in an engineering environment. Preferred age, early 30's. Male or female. A mature and lively approach with an ability to motivate people and get things done is essential.

Brief but comprehensive details of career and salary to date, which will be treated in confidence, should be sent to J. G. Cameron, Executive Selection Division at the address below. Please quote reference CF344 and include if possible, a daytime telephone number at which you can be contacted.

COOPERS & LYBRAND ASSOCIATES LTD.
Management Consultants
Shelley House, Noble Street, London, EC2V 7DQ.

financial controller

Volvo Group, part of the Lex Service Group, comprises Volvo Concessionaires, sole UK importers of Volvo cars and parts, and Lex Brooklands, a chain of retail Volvo distributors. It has an annual turnover in excess of £100m and an impressive growth and operating record.

As a result of internal career advancement, we are seeking to appoint a Controller who can demonstrate an outstanding financial track record, good business acumen and who has the potential to progress to the highest levels within the expanding Lex Service Group.

The Controller will be responsible for the development of financial policy within Volvo Group and for providing a financial control and information service. He or she will advise and assist the Group Management on all financial matters and negotiations, with particular regard to the optimisation of profits and cash flow. He or she is also responsible for the DP function, which is an integral part of the daily operation of the business, for controlling the Capital Project Appraisal System and for foreign currency dealing.

Aged 33-40, candidates, male or female, should be qualified chartered accountants with a successful career in financial management. Previous line responsibility for a DP activity is highly desirable. It is unlikely that anyone earning less than £13,000 p.a. would have the appropriate level of experience for this important position.

Benefits include a Company car, B.U.P.A., 5 weeks' holiday and non-contributory pension and sickness schemes. The position is based at High Wycombe, Bucks and generous relocation expenses will be given where appropriate.

Please send a detailed qualification and career profile, obtaining the need for an application form, to:

Mr R J Tidey
Group Personnel Manager
Volvo Group
Volvo House
Lancaster Road
Cressage Industrial Estate
HIGH WYCOMBE
Bucks

VOLVO

GENERAL MANAGER

Large Trading Group in Middle East

An opportunity exists in the Middle East for an outstanding senior executive of genuine provable ability with a track record of at least 15 years in management of trading or similar entrepreneurial concerns.

Candidates must have a wide ranging knowledge of all aspects of international trading and particular skills in organising and running a multi-divisional company with branches.

The post will be that of General Manager and the rewards will be extremely attractive to an appointee of the right calibre.

Terms will include incentive in the form of profit sharing.

Applications in writing with full curriculum vitae to Box A6455, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

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100% Travel

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A major international bank wishes to recruit a young banker with credit analysis or credit inspection experience to assist in conducting detailed examinations of the bank's loan portfolio throughout its global branch network.

This will include in-depth analysis and evaluation of risk assets; pinpointing undue risks and exposures; recommending corrective action and improvement; and generally assisting in the improvement of credit administration procedures.

The position involves 100% travel; applications are therefore invited from candidates prepared to be fully internationally mobile.

MONEY MARKET
Negotiable Instruments

Substantial Salary

An active London merchant bank seeks to expand its already considerable dealing operations by establishing a Negotiable Instruments desk within its Money Department.

This opportunity is open to a person with four or five years dealing experience in the Dollar CD, FRN or Eurobond markets. To an energetic, sales-oriented executive the position offers excellent scope for personal development.

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Banking

London EC3

c.£8500 +
major benefits

Our client is a major international commercial banking group with a comprehensive range of activities. The Taxation Supervisor will co-ordinate UK compliance work for the Group, reporting directly to the Group Taxation Manager at their Head Office in the City.

This appointment will suit candidates with wide commercial tax experience, preferably aged 35 upwards. An excellent benefits package includes subsidised mortgage and non-contributory pension scheme. Please telephone or write to Stephen Blaney, B.Com., ACA, quoting reference 1/1734.

EMA Management Personnel Ltd.
Burne House, 88/89 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6LR
Telephone: 01-242 7773

ROWE & PITMAN, HURST-BROWN

Analyst—Food Manufacturing/Tobacco

Rowe & Pitman, Hurst-Brown are seeking an analyst to develop their research effort in these sectors. Applicants should have had at least two years' relevant experience which will probably have been gained either in stockbroking or with a major financial institution.

We are offering an attractive remuneration of salary and profit sharing bonus, together with a non-contributory pension scheme incorporating good life cover.

Applications in confidence with full curriculum vitae to:—

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Rowe & Pitman, Hurst-Brown,
1st Floor, City Gate House,
39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA.

GROUP ACCOUNTANT

Recently Qualified

London W1

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Providing a range of financial, accounting and management services to group companies, the Accountant will also have major responsibilities in the development of group financial control and strategy. Working closely with the young Financial Controller he or she will be involved in systems development, cash management, and the review of potential acquisitions.

As a group of a diversified public group, our trading company client has a turnover of £50 million, healthy profits and is growing both organically and through acquisition. Aged 23-25, applicants should be recently qualified chartered accountants preferably with major professional practice experience. Please telephone or write to David Hogg, ACA, quoting reference 1/1739.

EMA Management Personnel Ltd.
Burne House, 88/89 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6LR
Telephone: 01-242 7773

International Investment Analysis

Bank of America International Limited has vacancies for two investment analysts, specialising primarily in international equity investment—one with responsibility for North American markets and the other for European markets, principally U.K. and West Germany.

The successful candidates will undertake analysis of a wide range of economic and financial trends with view to providing inputs for currency and interest rate forecasts in their respective areas. The major part of their work will be formulation of equity investment strategy, including specific sector and individual stock analysis in each market.

These positions call for considerable adaptability, and a high degree of ability in communication in both verbal and written form. Travel will be involved for both positions.

Age is not a limiting factor, although the age group is envisaged at 24-30; candidates should have a minimum of two years relevant experience with an institution or brokerage house; an economics degree or similar qualification is desirable.

An attractive salary will be offered reflecting experience and ability, and benefits are in line with normal banking practice.

Please send complete career details, in full confidence, to the Director of Research at the address below.



International Investment Management Service

BANK OF AMERICA International Limited,
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SENIOR FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE—U.S.

A highly successful and rapidly growing company on the West Coast requires a senior executive with 8-10 years' first-hand experience in the functions of controllership.

Background experience should be international, most probably in a major U.S. consumer goods company, where judgment, integrity and the ability to administrate effectively and to make tough decisions under pressure would have been essential. The accent is upon a strong background in control, but knowledge of the treasury function world-wide would be helpful.

An extremely generous salary in the upper five-figure bracket with additional fringe benefits is offered and, as it is envisaged that the successful candidate will have the opportunity to become the Chief Financial Officer of the company, candidates should have distinct style and an attractive personality as well as the necessary technical competence, initiative and diplomacy.

Please send full details of career background, which will be treated in confidence, to Box A.6454, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

Company Secretary Designate

For a public company, providing a range of Industrial Services through a group of subsidiary companies both in the U.K. and overseas. The Company Secretary designate will report to the present incumbent and also to the Group Managing Director and will be appointed Company Secretary in due course. Responsibilities include the usual range of company secretarial duties together with the preparation and vetting of legal contracts. This appointment offers the opportunity to make a positive contribution at top level to a corporate management team. Applicants should be qualified Company Secretaries with considerable experience in financial and insurance matters together with a knowledge of group pension schemes. Salary negotiable, together with excellent fringe benefits with Company car, based in a small Head Office west of London.

Preferred age 30-40. Reference 112.

Telephone Philip Egerton on 01-409 0434.

Philip Egerton & Associates

Selection Consultants

178/179 Piccadilly, London W1V 0QP

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

circa £9,500 + car

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A general insurance company, part of a large U.S. group, requires a qualified accountant, aged about 27-35, for a new appointment. He or she will have gained management experience, ideally in the insurance industry. With the help of three managers, the Chief Accountant will control the accounts department, which uses fully computerised systems, and will work closely with the Financial Director. The company is growing fast and offers an attractive opportunity to participate in a dynamic management team.

Please apply:
Sir Timothy Hoare,
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Chichester Road,
WCA 18E,
01-242 5775

Career plan**COMMODITY SPECIALIST**

A leading International Investment Group has an exceptional vacancy based in London for the person with matching ability. The basic requirements include successful completion of the U.S. National Commodity Futures exam, experience in trading commodities on all the U.S. futures exchanges and expertise in money management; fluency in various Indian dialects including Hindi, Gujarati and faultless English. A knowledge of Persian or Arabic would be highly desirable and a knowledge of Italian, German and French would be advantageous. The ideal candidate will have existing commodity clients in the Middle East/Gulf areas as well as India and be able to develop new prospects in those areas and carry them through to completion.

Salary is circa £12,000 per annum with usual big company fringe benefits. If you feel you can handle this challenge, please write, in strictest confidence, enclosing curriculum vitae, to Box A.6456, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

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London, c. £9,000 (incl. bonus) + car

Our client is the highly successful UK subsidiary of a major international corporation involved in the records and music industries. The subsidiary's growth over the past few years has been exceptional and they now employ 1800 and have a turnover in excess of £50 million in the UK. Through creativity and leadership, the successful candidate will identify user needs in financial and management information.

and control systems, liaise with the accounting EDP functions at the design stage and take full responsibility for the subsequent effectiveness of his/her schemes. Candidates aged 27-30 and qualified accountants must show a broad accounting background with a strong involvement in computerised financial systems. The ability to communicate clearly and influence senior management is essential.

G.E. Forester, Ref: 18167/FT.

Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form to:
LONDON: 01-734 6852, Sutherland House, 5/6 Ayrill Street, W1E 6EZ.



Hoggett Bowers
Executive Selection Consultants
BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD.

RETIRING MANAGING

DIRECTOR

OR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

desiring further active career is invited to enquire for information re top vacancies in growing international charity. Salary and expenses, London or U.S.A. based. Entrepreneurial ability/management men and affairs indicated. Example: Overseas Project Director, London based, with three overseas visits yearly.

Telephone Founder's Office, 01-403 3397 or 01-499 6652, or write: Help The Aged and associated charities, 32, Dover Street, London, W1A 2AP.

Readers - willing to help worthwhile cause please draw this advertisement to the attention of recently retired or retiring top businessmen.

Corporate Finance

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited is expanding its activities in the Corporate Finance field in the UK, and as a result, there are two new appointments to be made. The first vacancy is for a Young Accountant or Solicitor, aged between 25 and 29, with a good honours degree who has had relevant post qualification experience in fields related to Corporate Finance. Alternatively similar experience may have been obtained in industry. The second is for an Acquisitions Executive whose responsibilities will

include the initial identification of possible acquisitions and any necessary financial appraisal. Applicants in their mid to late 20's should demonstrate that they have gained sound practical experience either with a firm of stockbrokers or in another financial institution. An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated including mortgage facilities, BUPA and an excellent non-contributory pension scheme. Please write with full career details as soon as possible to:-

R. C. & Gardner, Chief Personnel Officer, Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, 100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**PANMURE GORDON & CO.**

INVESTMENT ANALYST

We are looking for an analyst to join our team covering chemicals, pharmaceuticals and textiles. A university degree (or appropriate professional qualification) and some experience in investment analysis, not necessarily in related fields, are the minimum qualifications required. The successful candidate will be expected to acquire a broad expertise in these sectors and to become a specialist in textiles and fibres.

Applications with C.V. should be made to:

G. F. Hallwood
at 9 Moorfields Highwalk
London EC2Y 9DS

DREXEL BURNHAM LAMBERT INCORPORATED

A vacancy has arisen in our London Office for an experienced person to handle the settlement of our American Securities business.

This is a position of great responsibility and applicants should be familiar with securities settlement procedures, dealings in currencies and U.K. Exchange Control regulations.

Please apply in writing to:

Mr. A. L. Forward,
Winchester House,
77 London Wall,
London, E.C.2.

Replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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LEGAL AND PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR

ASEA Limited, the UK subsidiary of the International Swedish electrical engineering group, has a requirement for a Legal and Personnel Administrator who will report to the Financial Manager and Company Secretary and advise on legal aspects of the Company's work in commercial matters and take responsibility for personnel administration.

This is a new position, based in Central London, and offers a first class opportunity for the successful candidate to become involved in the UK development of the Company and enlarge his or her responsibilities in line with future growth.

The person suited to the position will probably be a qualified Chartered Secretary aged 27-30 with up to date knowledge of commercial, employment and pensions legislation.

An exceptionally generous remuneration package, with additional large company benefits, is negotiable.

Please write in the first instance to: N. Jenkins, America Square Associates Ltd., 34 Queen's Gate Place Mews, London SW7 5BQ, or telephone 01-589 1589.

NEWLY QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS

21st September

The Financial Times proposes publishing three pages of Newly Qualified Accountancy Appointments on 21st September following the publication of the results of the Finals Examinations.

If you are expecting to qualify, the Financial Times intends to publish the widest possible range of opportunities open to you.

If you are recruiting "Newly Qualifieds" the advantages of advertising in the Financial Times are considerable—the cost is £14 per single column centimetre—copy can be accepted until the day before publication—and the Financial Times has established an enviable reputation in this field.

For further details, including reprints of previous features, contact:

James Jarratt
on 01-248 4601 (direct line)
or 01-248 8000 ext. 588

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MATHEMATICAL ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

Due to continuing expansion a vacancy has arisen within the computer department for an Analyst/Programmer with a sound mathematical background. The successful applicant will be required to contribute at a high level to special mathematical projects which are being developed on our ICL 1902S/2950 mainframes and via terminals to remote mainframes.

Applicants should have a degree in mathematics or a related subject and general computer experience, including high level language programming. Knowledge of investment techniques and more detailed experience in COBOL/FORTRAN programming would be desirable but not essential.

Location in Edinburgh and conditions of employment are excellent with starting salary negotiable up to £8,000 p.a. depending on experience. The firm operates a profit related bonus scheme and contributory pension scheme.

Please apply giving details of your career to date, to:
Computer Co-ordinator,
Wood, Mackenzie & Co.,
Erskine House, 68-73 Queen Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 4NS. Tel: 031-226 4141

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

required by expanding home building company. Must be a qualified Accountant with commercial experience preferably within the building industry. This senior post commands a top salary, company car and other benefits. The position offers scope for initiative and the successful candidate, who should be of board material, will be responsible for all financial aspects of the company, including the preparation of company accounts, forecasting and site trading accounts, up-dating of site appraisals on a regular basis and comparison of actual costs and appraised costs.

Please apply in writing with curriculum vitae in strictest confidence to: Mr. I. Fisch

ARNCLIFFE HOLDINGS LTD.

(inc. Walt Ratcliffe Ltd.),
Holbeck Chambers, 101, The Headrow,
Leeds LS1 5JW. Tel: 445051.



John, 10/5/80

HOME NEWS

Court to decide technology ban on UK concern

By John Lloyd

A COURT in Dallas, Texas, is to hear a plea next week that Inmos, the U.S.-based microelectronics subsidiary of Britain's National Enterprise Board, be restrained permanently from acquiring and using trade secrets claimed as belonging to Mostek, a Texas microelectronics company.

The hearing has been delayed for Mostek to collect more evidence. An adverse judgment might jeopardise Inmos's future operations.

Mostek may also seek to have Inmos restrained from employing Mostek personnel, including four former Mostek employees now contracted to Inmos whose resignations from Mostek gave rise to the current case.

Mostek succeeded this week in gaining temporary injunctions against Inmos on two counts relating to trade secrets, but attempts to stop Inmos hiring Mostek employees, or continuing to employ the former Mostek workers, were rejected.

The former Mostek men at the heart of the dispute are Mr. Ward Parkinson, a senior design engineer; Mr. Douglas Pittman, a draughtsman; Mr. Dennis Wilson, a design engineer; and Mr. David Wooten, an applications engineer. Only Mr. Parkinson had held a senior position.

However, one of three Inmos directors, Dr. Paul Schroeder, had until recently played a key role in Mostek, where he had

been director of memory design engineering since 1976. Dr. Richard Petritz, another Inmos director and the creator of the company, founded Mostek in 1969, though he had severed his connection with it for some years.

Dr. Petritz and Dr. Schroeder believe that victory for Mostek would place Mostek in a position to define trade secrets for itself, possibly covering a broader area of knowledge than that which was actually secret.

Thus information available from a variety of sources would be obtained by Inmos specifically, putting it at a severe disadvantage in relation to Mostek and to other advanced microelectronics companies, which would be able to use such technology.

Mostek has become a successful company, employing 4,500 people with a turnover of \$70m last year. It specialises in advanced computer technology, including the manufacture of micro-computer memories, an area in which Inmos will concentrate.

Inmos plans to produce a range of microprocessors and the most advanced random access memory—the 64K RAM—which has a capacity for 64,000 "bytes" or units of information.

Mostek, with ITT and other companies in the U.S. and Japan, are designing the next-generation chip. Large profits will go to the company which can first produce a RAM that performs well in a variety of functions.

ITT plans to invest £5m at British factory

By John Lloyd

ITT, the U.S.-based multinational, is to undertake a £5m investment programme at its semi-conductor plant at Footscray, South East London.

It is understood that negotiations on Government aid of a further £1m are nearly complete. The expansion is part of a European investment programme of more than £10m. About £5m will also be spent on a water fabrication plant at the company's intermetal plant in Freiburg, West Germany.

The new Freiburg plant will be used to make about 4,000 wafers—the backing for integrated circuits—a week.

Footscray, which specialises in the manufacture of micro-computer memories, will expand its production, especially of the 16K RAM (random access memory), the most advanced memory in mass production.

The company recently won a £500,000 order for 16Ks from Europe.

It is also thought likely that the company will develop its own version of the 64K RAM, the next generation memory.

This expansion will probably take ITT into the ranks of volume producers of micro-processors and micro-computer memories, though definitions of what constitutes a volume producer vary.

Computer staff needs studied

By John Lloyd

FUTURE MANPOWER needs of the UK computer industry will be studied by the Electronics Sector Working Party of the National Development Office.

The £30,000 study is aimed at assisting the improvement of the UK's position as a producer of computers and computer technology.

Dr. HONEYWELL is to start UK production of its new Level 6 range of mini-computers at its Scottish plant at Newhouse, Strathclyde, on Glasgow Correspondent reports.

Productions now stands at about 300 Range-Rovers and 1,350 Land-Rovers a week. Mr. Hodgkinson said that £8m of the first-phase money will be spent at the South Works, Solihull, to expand painting facilities and improve Land-Rover body build lines.

Another £2.3m is being spent to increase production of Range-Rover gear boxes at the plant in the next few weeks.

They are likely to receive sympathetic consideration, given that Land-Rover can sell all it produces and the waiting list for its vehicles stretches up to two years.

Plans for the second phase, involving expenditure of £250m will be submitted to the BL board in the next few weeks.

At Acocys Green, Birmingham, a new V8 engine assembly track has been installed with a capacity of over 2,000 units a week.

Land-Rover meets expansion target

By Kenneth Gooding, Industrial Correspondent

THE FIRST phase of an expansion programme at BL's Land-Rover subsidiary is on target and should raise Range-Rover capacity by 50 per cent and add 10 per cent to Land-Rover output by next spring.

Mr. Mike Hodgkinson, Land-Rover's managing director, gave this news to the 9,000 employees yesterday, when he also provided a detailed breakdown of how the first phase cash of £20m is to be spent.

It is part of an overall £280m investment aimed at nearly doubling production of both Land-Rovers and Range-Rovers by 1982.

Plans for the second phase, involving expenditure of £250m will be submitted to the BL board in the next few weeks.

They are likely to receive sympathetic consideration, given that Land-Rover can sell all it produces and the waiting list for its vehicles stretches up to two years.

Records go in Scotland

SALEROOM

By Antony Thorncroft

SOTHEBY'S annual August Bank Holiday sales at Glasgow's Hotel in Scotland were a great success, bringing in £383,503 over the two days, with five artist records among the pictures. The top price, and of record, was £10,000 paid by the Fine Art Society for a "Portrait of the Artist and his Wife" by George Henry, 1910.

Apart from the records, £5,500 was paid for "The Gillie's Sojourn" by James Hardy, and the same sum secured "A Geisha Girl," also by George Henry.

"Water Lilies," painted in 1903 by William MacGeorge, £3,900 for "Washing the Crocks" by Robert Hutchison, £3,200 from the Fine Art Society again, for "The Edinburgh Academy" by John Wells, and £3,000 for a "Portrait of the Artist and his Wife" by George Henry, 1910.

The other records were £6,500 from the Tryon Gallery for

Expansion rate likely to slacken

By Peter Riddell, Economics Correspondent

THE RATE of expansion of the UK economy is likely to slacken next year though the growth, inflation and external performance should be better than in the period 1974-77.

The slackening is indicated by a comparison of 10 forecasts of the UK economy carried out by various official, academic and commercial organisations.

The main feature is a wide measure of unanimity about the prospects for the next 12 to 18 months—a consumer led mini-boom this year followed by slightly slower growth in 1979, a current account between balance and a small surplus, a slight acceleration in the inflation rate and little change in the level of unemployment.

This degree of agreement does not mean, of course, that this is what will happen, but the widespread expectation of the outcome will influence both markets and policy makers.

The main conclusion drawn by most analysts is that neither the balance of payments nor public sector borrowing and monetary constraint allow much scope for a substantial fiscal stimulus in the Budget next spring. Indeed some commentators have suggested that existing spending plans may have to be reined back, though the National Institute has called for further reduction.

The forecasts are generally on the basis of existing policies, except that direct tax allowances are assumed to be increased next spring in line with inflation.

However, both the Henley Centre and Chase Econometrics expect some extra cuts in income tax in the next Budget, this may largely explain why these two groups are forecasting a faster rate of expansion next year than shown by the other projections on present policies.

Otherwise, the main differences in the projections concern the current account of the balance of payments. A surplus of £1.9bn expected by the National Institute next year contrasts with the small deficit projected by the London Business School.

The explanation is their widely differing views of export and import prospects. In general, the forecasters are fairly bullish about the export outlook in 1979.

Comparisons of unemployment are not included in the accompanying table because the different basis on which the projections are made. But there is fairly general agreement that the UK adult unemployment total will rise slightly by the end of next year, after declining during the first half of this year. But the rise is not expected to be more than 50,000 to 100,000 from the present level of around 1.4m. The only main exception

is Henley which expects a small decline and is also the most bullish on growth next year.

The figures in the table are on the basis of average growth and this will tend to boost overall growth rates because of the sharp rise in the relative price of oil in 1974-75 and the recent build-up in North Sea production.

For example, while the London School of Business is projecting a 2.4 per cent rate of expansion in total output this year at 1970 prices the increase would be 3 per cent in the year to the fourth quarter of this year to 0.6 per cent in the following 12 months. Almost all the projections are

on the conventional basis of constant 1970 prices to show the underlying volume changes. A switchover to a constant 1975 price basis is now under way and this will tend to boost overall growth rates because of the sharp rise in the relative price of oil in 1974-75 and the recent build-up in North Sea production.

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COMPARISONS OF FORECASTS

	Treasury (April)	National Institute (August)	OECD (July)	CBI (July)	Chase Econometrics (August)	London Business School (June)	Henley Centre (August)	Phillips & Drew (August)	Wood Mackenzie (June)	Hoare Govett (August)
Percentage change year on year (at 1970 price)										
Gross domestic product	1978 2.00	3.1	2.75	2.6	2.1	2.40	2.90	2.7	2.5	3.30
	1979 1.60	2.8	1.75	2.5	3.3	1.80	3.40	2.1	2.8	3.00
Consumer spending	1978 5.00	5.1	5.00	5.1	4.6	4.60	5.20	5.4	5.0	4.90
	1979 2.20	2.3	1.00	3.5	3.0	2.50	4.30	2.3	2.5	2.90
Exports	1978 3.70	3.8	3.00	2.7	4.3	2.90	3.90	3.8	4.0	5.00
	1979 5.80	2.9	4.00	1.6	3.1	4.70	4.70	4.0	4.8	6.00
Imports	1978 7.50	4.0	5.50	7.8	9.6	7.60	6.20	5.1	6.8	6.30
	1979 8.70	3.8	4.80	2.4	5.8	6.40	5.30	3.1	4.5	5.80
Current account (£bn)	1978 0.75	0.6	0.95 below 0.5	—	0.85	0.20	0.4	0.6	0.85	0.85
	1979 0.50	1.9	1.18	—	0.85	0.16	0.81	0.2	0.24	0.94
Public sector borrowing (£bn)	1978 8.50	8.1	—	—	7.70	7.75	8.3	8.2	8.2	7.74
	1979 8.50	8.4	—	—	7.60	7.75	8.3	8.2	8.2	7.74
Price inflation average	1978 —	9.3	8.75	—	—	8.80	8.40	8.2	8.6	8.25
increase	1979 —	11.2	7.50	—	—	11.70	9.20	10.9	9.8	8.25

* Treasury and OECD figures for 1979 are for first half of year only and are changes compared with second half of 1978 expressed at an annual rate, current account also at an annual rate.

† Inflation comparisons are for consumer prices except for Wood Mackenzie and Hoare Govett where retail prices are used.



THE FIRST rapid transport Metrocar (above) was delivered to the Tyneside yesterday by Metro-Cammell of Birmingham. Altogether, 88 of the cars will operate on the £161m Tyne and Wear Metro.

The initial phase was due to open next spring, but because of inter-union dispute it will probably be delayed, says Tyneside Passenger Transport Executive.

Rail and bus drivers' unions are arguing over who should drive the "supertrams," although they have agreed in principle that work should be shared.

There have also been spasmodic delays on construction work for the light railway, believed to be the first of its kind in Britain.

Monday Club urges direct tax cut

By David Freud

A BIG cut in direct taxation is called for by the Monday Club, the independent Conservative pressure group.

The group said in a policy paper released yesterday that the cut should be accompanied by a simplification in the administration of direct taxation, even if this meant increasing direct taxes.

Changes in taxation were put forward as the main way to revive the economy, through encouraging individuals and corporations to create and expand their businesses and employees to increase their output.

The issue of shares to employees was a valuable incentive and called for a reduction of the public sector. The National Enterprise Board should be abolished and Government equity participation in private industry ended.

The concept of a negative income tax should be revived and a single low flat rate of

income tax should be examined closely. The investment income surcharge, should be abolished. Two tax changes of considerable advantage to people running small businesses would be the indexation of capital gains tax and an increase in the business relief provisions of capital transfer tax.

The group said that corporation tax should be abolished because very little of it was paid currently. Instead, the authorities should rely solely on advanced corporation tax.

The Tory aim of cutting Government expenditure would improve employment prospects, not worsen them, Sir Keith Joseph, opposition spokesman on industry, said yesterday.

Sir Keith said wasteful public spending was paid for through higher taxes, additional borrowing and printing of money. "In other words, the Government has been reducing personal spending in order to spend more itself."

Meanwhile, the leading figure behind the manufacturers, Mr. John Price, head of the Birmingham-based Arthur Price of England cutlery group, is making further inroads into Sheffield with the acquisition of Sanders and Bowers, producers of top quality kitchen knives.

Mr. Price, whose company already operates two Sheffield factories, claims that the takeover could result in 50 new jobs.

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LABOUR NEWS

Miners fight TUC bid to halt incomes clash

By Our Labour Editor

MINERS' leaders are to resist TUC efforts to stop their attacking the social contract at next week's Trades Union Congress in Brighton.

The executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers refused yesterday to entertain an amendment to their main motion for Congress put up by the Transport and General Workers' Union and designed to take the heat out of the miners' attack.

However, Mr. Joe Gormley, the miners' president, did not rule out the possibility that they might eventually have to accept the transport union's amendment.

That would leave Congress with little to argue about in its economic debate, since a very large majority of the TUC unions appears to agree on a policy of passive resistance to the Government's incomes policy.

As it stands, the miners' motion is probably the most hostile to the Government on the agenda. It asks Congress to declare its total opposition to any proposed extension of the social contract into Phase Four.

Many union leaders argue that

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Pay rise for NUM leaders

By Philip Bassett, Labour Staff

THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Mineworkers showed its appreciation of the latest pay policy yesterday by voting itself big pay rises to take effect eight months after the last increase for the union's full-time officials.

Salary increases of between 6 and 20 per cent will be paid from next March, in a move making union officers' pay with that of National Coal Board management grades.

Mr. Joe Gormley, NUM president, will receive more than £10,000 a year but the president's salary band will have a maximum of £13,000 a year.

Area presidents like Mr. Arthur Scargill of Yorkshire will be on a band of £7,335 rising to £9,400 after three years. Junior officials will get between £6,500 and £8,300 a year.

Although the industrial atomic workers are numerically small, with little tradition of militancy, their position in the wages round gives their claim special significance for the rest of the public sector and for the Government's hopes of making its pay limit stick.

Union leaders met Ministry of Defence officials yesterday to discuss the safety of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston, where 12 workers were found to be contaminated with plutonium earlier this month.

Tube strikes called off

THE THREAT of one day strikes on London's Underground from next week has now been lifted. Mr. Boh Kettle, secretary of the National Union of Railwaysmen's London Transport district council said last night.

The decision was made after talks on economic consolidation by staff representatives over overtime cuts on the Underground.

Mr. Kettle said proposals for cuts on overtime and rest-day working had been withdrawn by London Transport.

Senior management and national NUR officials are scheduled to begin further talks on economic consolidation by staff representatives over overtime cuts on the Underground.

TGWU accepts pay deal

By Philip Bassett, Labour Staff

BRITAIN'S LARGEST union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday accepted a Stage Three pay settlement for its 90,000-plus members in the industrial civil service and launched a major campaign on public services pay and employment designed to create 50,000 new jobs.

Union representatives from all over the country met at a lay delegate conference of the TGWU in London yesterday and voted unanimously to accept the Government's final pay offer to 18,000 industrial civil servants, which would give consolidation of £8.80 of pay policy supplements into basic rates and a 9 per cent increase on those rates.

The TGWU acceptance of the offer will lead the way for the 11 other unions in the joint co-ordinating committee, Peter Adams, representative of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union, said yesterday that his union would also be officially accepting the offer.

Mr. Frank Cortam, secretary of the trade union side of the committee, said the TGWU acceptance of the offer was "encouraging," but was in itself not enough for a full and final acceptance. The industrial civil servants are the main group still to settle under the Government's Stage Three guidelines.

One problem still to be resolved under the settlement formula, though, is the position of pieceworkers, who work mainly in Royal Ordnance factories. Though they are on higher levels of pay, under the current formula they have been offered a settlement equal to that offered to workers on the lowest band.

Union officials will discuss the pieceworkers' position at a meeting at the TUC on Monday if nothing is resolved this week.

The TGWU's booklet, launched yesterday, called Our Policy for the Public Sector, said that the "fare" of the industrial civil servants' negotiations for 1978 highlighted the need for "an urgent look at bargaining procedures in the public service."

The union, which has around 220,000 members in its public services group, said that public service workers faced serious and unresolved pay problems.

Local authority workers, whose Stage Four pay claim will be drawn up early next month, are £20 a week behind workers in production industries, and accl-

lary health workers £17.50 leave, an emphasis on flat rate behind. Public administration rather than percentage increases. Workers in general earned only and pay maintenance guarantees \$1 per cent of the average pay to protect the lower paid against price rises during the course of a pay agreement.

Pay settlements over the next few years should press a number of public services into the target of at least an extra 100,000 of pay policy supplements into basic rates, increases in holiday the next five years.

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20/10/50

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Maun Industries Limited, Mansfield



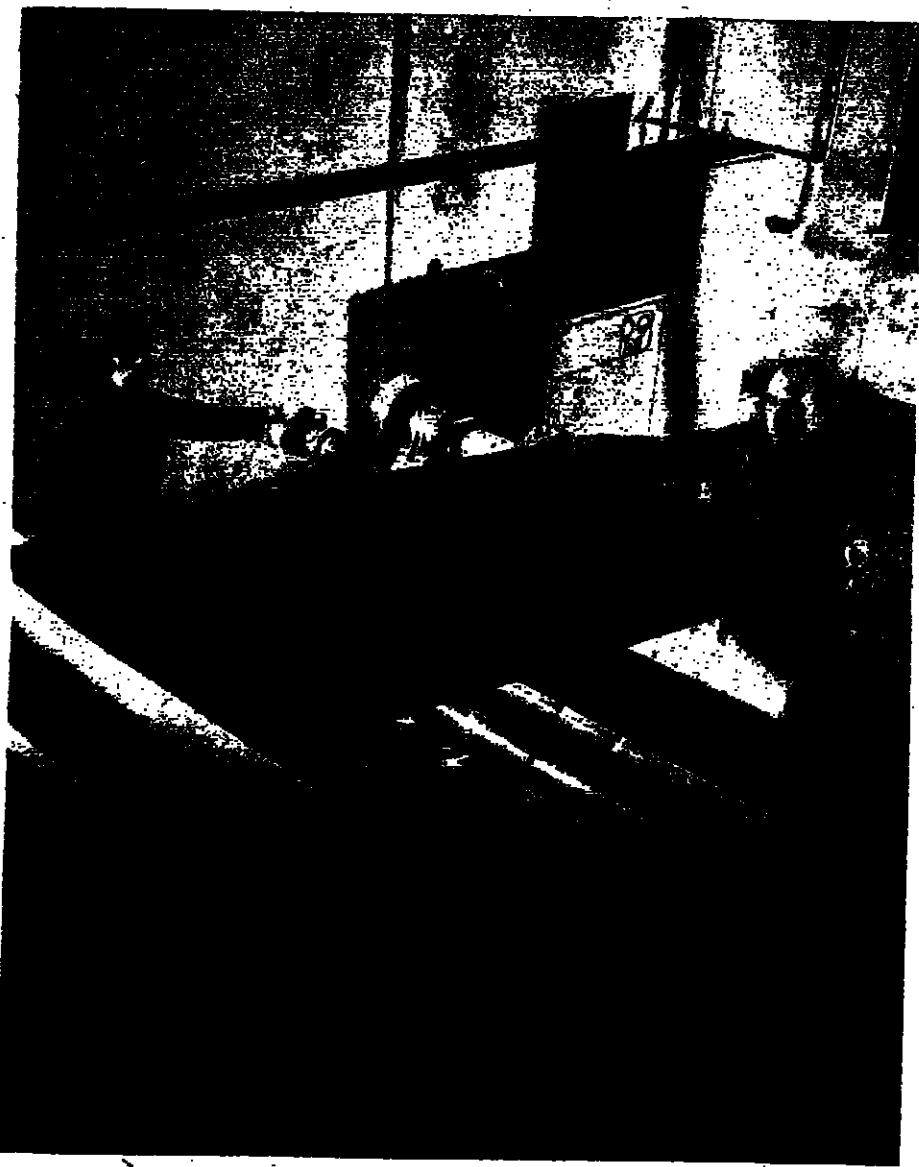
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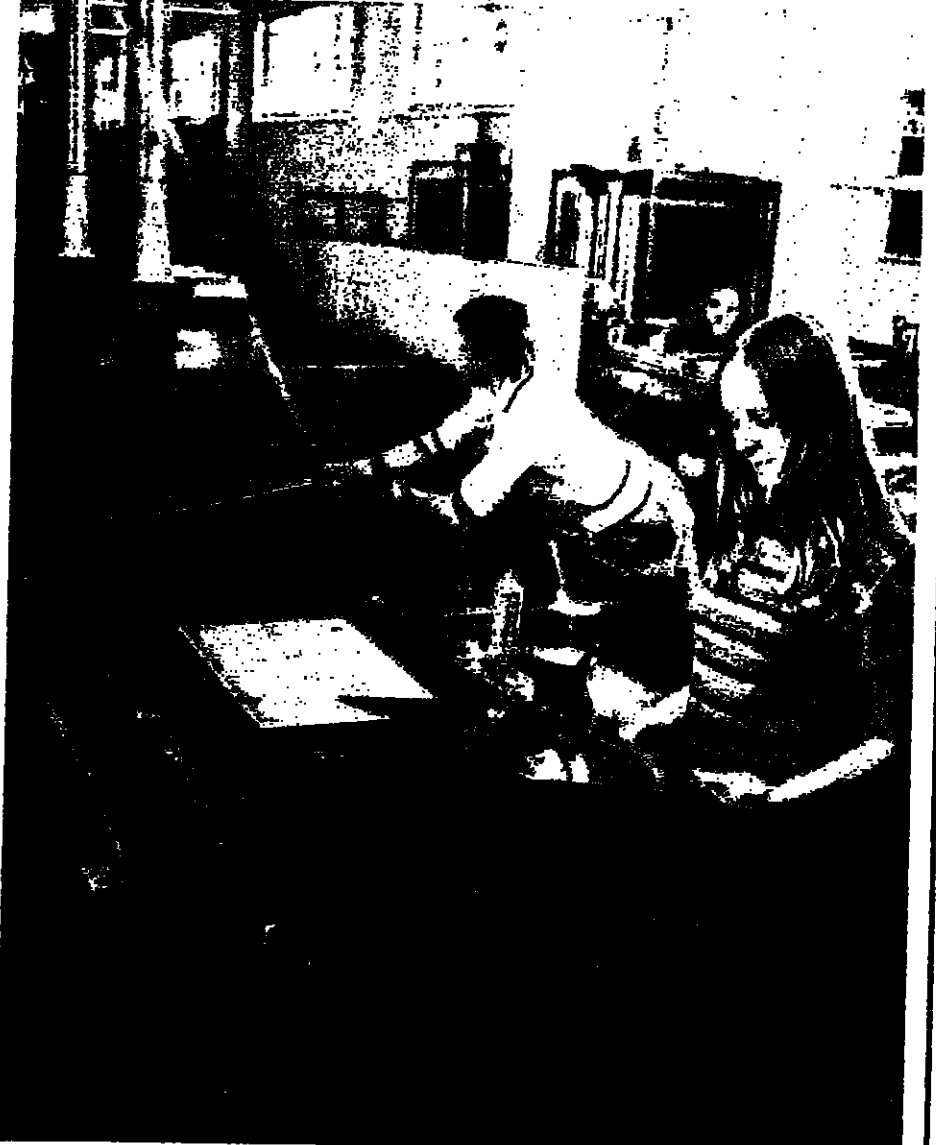
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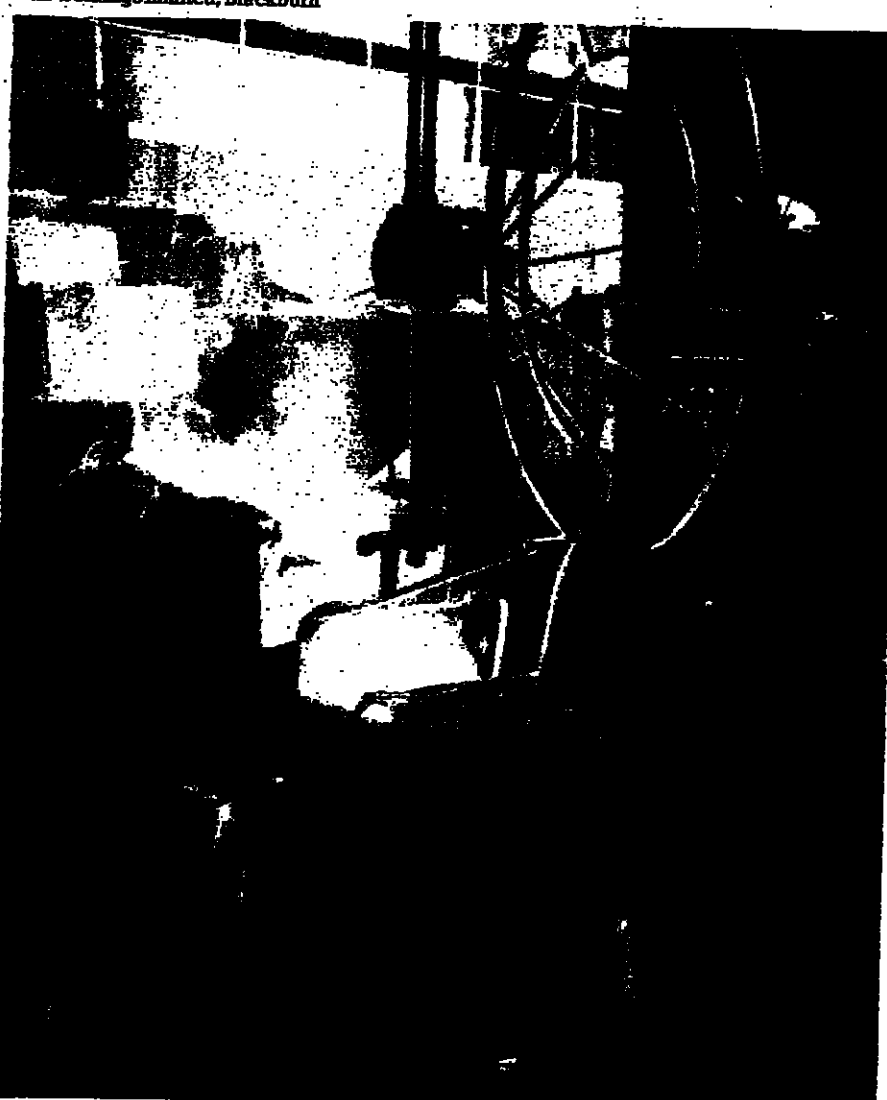
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Thursday August 31 1978

A counter to the boycott

THE ARAB boycott of Israel is designed to ban trade between Arab countries and foreign companies which are deemed to have promoted the growth of the Israeli economy or to have strengthened her war effort. Although the application of the boycott has been inconsistent and unpredictable, it poses serious moral and commercial problems for companies trading in the Middle East. Some have felt obliged to withdraw from long-standing commitments to Israel; others have avoided looking for Israeli business which would normally interest them. Businessmen are heartily sick of it and would fully endorse the comment in the report published yesterday by the House of Lords Select Committee on the proposed Foreign Boycotts Bill: "It is objectionable for those who are not party to the Middle East conflict to be drawn into it and for the exercise of legitimate economic activity to be made subject to extraneous political considerations."

The question is—what can be done about it? So far it has been the U.S., partly because of its powerful pro-Israel lobby, which has taken the strongest action. The Export Administration Amendment Act of 1977 makes it illegal for a U.S. company to refuse to do business with Israel because an Arab country demands it. In addition, U.S. companies are prohibited from furnishing certain kinds of information about their dealings with black-listed firms or with boycotted countries where that information is sought for purposes of boycott enforcement.

Reprisal fears

Although the Act is not as strong as some opponents of the boycott had hoped, there were fears among businessmen that firming that the goods in question would lead to reprisals in Arab countries and severely damage U.S. exports to the Middle East. It is too early to assess the effects, but first indications are encouraging: some Arab countries have amended their requirements to accommodate the U.S. legislation and individual companies have been able to secure the removal of

Half-hearted

This does not mean that the British Government's present posture of half-hearted hostility to the boycott is satisfactory. Government officials, as well as companies, may in some cases be so desperate for every crumb of Arab business that they carry voluntary compliance with the boycott to unnecessary lengths. Diplomatic pressure in individual countries may bring about some relaxation of the boycott rules. As the Select Committee points out, it is not necessary for the Government to involve itself in the process of "legalising" the negative certificates of origin required by some Arab countries, confirming that the goods in question were not made in Israel and do not contain Israeli-made components. The Government should seek a consensus among European Governments on ways of dealing with the boycott, but in the meantime the American example should encourage a more determined stand in support of the principle of non-discrimination.

Barriers to efficiency

THE NEED to improve the rate of productivity growth has been the one constant in the recurrent British planning experiments of the past generation. Yet, as figures in the latest Department of Employment Gazette indicate, the UK's productivity performance has deteriorated rather than improved in recent years. The slight rise in employment in production and manufacturing industries in June and the broadly flat trend since last autumn point to only a slow rise in output per head.

Over the first half of this year manufacturing productivity appears to have been less than 1 per cent higher than a year earlier, while rising output in the capital intensive North Sea oil sector has ensured a gain of around 1.3 per cent in production industries generally. This is hardly much reward for the self-financing productivity schemes allowed under the pay policy which have added about 2 per cent to the increase in earnings in the past year.

The deterioration

This has occurred at a time of buoyant consumer demand in the UK and at possibly around the peak of a cyclical upturn. The deterioration is shown even more clearly by comparison with the previous cycle — not only was output per head in production industries in the first half of this year less than 1 per cent higher than the previous peak at the end of 1973 but it also represented an improvement of only 7 per cent from the 1975 trough. In contrast between early 1971 and the end of 1973 productivity rose by nearly 12 per cent.

The UK has not been alone in experiencing a sharp reduction in its rate of productivity growth since 1973. With the exception of West Germany there has been a similar phenomenon of firm or rising employment and slow output growth in most other major industrialised countries. This has prompted the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to note that efficiency at creating inefficiency has been widespread. Britain, industrial strategy,

THE NATIONAL ENTERPRISE BOARD

The State's new businessmen

DURING the past few weeks the National Enterprise Board has received a considerable amount of publicity, some of it favourable and some highly critical. It has been attacked for being reckless with public money in investing up to £50m in its new INMOS micro-chip company based on the skills of three electronics engineers, and it has won acceptance from two clearing banks and the firmly private enterprise Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation in three investment projects.

While it has won this respectability and acceptance as a commercial organisation, its public sector status has led to a fierce argument with the Commons Public Accounts Committee which is trying, so far without success, to make the NEB reveal details of its confidential business transactions.

What all this means is that the NEB has been performing quite skilfully for an organisation that was launched three years ago by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn to convert State ownership into profitable private industry and which has been threatened with the axe—or at least the narrowing shears—of Sir Keith Joseph if the Conservatives win the next General Election.

Good chance of survival

As a result of its activities, chances of the NEB surviving as an example of state ownership with an entrepreneurial face under a future Conservative administration are now stronger than they were just over a year ago, when Lord Ryder vacated the Board's chairmanship in favour of his deputy, Mr. (now Sir) Leslie Murphy.

During the year Sir Leslie has used skills learned in earlier jobs as a civil servant, businessman and merchant banker to operate a flexible policy with a low public profile. While this has led to criticisms that his philosophy and strategies have rarely been spelt out (for example, when the NEB successfully bid £20m for the Fairway companies last November), industry and the financial institutions have been privately coaxed into co-operation.

Even Sir Keith Joseph and fellow Conservative politicians now see some future role for a NEB. Like leaders of other groups that include Liberal and Tribune MPs and the ASTMS trade union, Sir Keith has been entertained and talked to by Sir Leslie (himself a known Labour supporter). While such people all have their own ideas of what the NEB ought, or ought not, to be, they have all become less strident in their criticisms.

At the same time, the low-key approach has fitted in with the cautious, non-controversial front adopted to sensitive indus-

trial and other issues by the Prime Minister, Mr. Callaghan, who intends to make the NEB a central feature of the industrial part of his general election strategy.

He showed how he rates it when he threw an unusual Downing Street dinner party for about 45 people early last month at which he made Sir Leslie the star turn. The guests included Tory MPs (Sir Keith pleaded other business), top CBI and TUC leaders, and senior Cabinet Ministers and civil servants, as well as representatives of the NEB's parallel agencies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. After a fairly quick

Leslie and his colleagues have been able to do so far is to set it up with new top management and give it a fresh start. Among the other "lame ducks," the Alfred Herbert machine tool business is still in trouble and Rolls-Royce has several lean years ahead.

There have also been some failures with the NEB's early investments and attempts to work out industrial strategies. In particular there has been controversy over its intervention in the tanning industry, while efforts to reorganise large industries such as electronics and power engineering have not succeeded.

One NEB company — Hivent

has been closed down in the North-East and there have been rumblings over the private medical care interests of United Medical Enterprises, in which the NEB invested to boost hospital equipment exports. The exports field also saw two earlier failures in jumbo container vessels when consortium including the NEB did not win orders for a Venezuelan railway and a Middle East power station. Now the NEB is generally keeping out of such one-off export ventures and is instead looking for more permanent arrangements like the medical company.

These include a possible joint venture for a large-scale builders' merchants business in Jeddah selling UK-made building materials and components to "East contractors." Such a range of diverse activities prompts the major criticism about the NEB that it is little more than a motley assortment of businesses that have little in common apart

from the fact that they have caught the eye and imagination of Sir Leslie and the dozen senior staff who help him spend the £10m state cash he has had available.

The NEB however sees its work as falling into clearly defined areas: helping its lame ducks; boosting exports by encouraging overseas marketing ventures; filling what it sees as the equity gap for small and medium-sized businesses, especially in areas of high unemployment; and fulfilling an industrial strategy role by rationalising industries and encouraging new technology. This is the basis of its invest-

ment and management corporate plan, which it submits to the Government each November. In the case of Monotype, the NEB analysed the company's future and then found it two new top directors. In the case of North-East, the Midland wants the commercial and industrial experience of NEB staff to complement the more general experience of its High Street bank managers.

These deals are specially significant because they show the NEB becoming accepted by financial institutions in arrangements that may well not have been conceivable a year ago. This is important not only for agreed regular reporting from the company and usually also because it requires a five-year strategic plan up-dated each year. It also seeks the right to appoint one or more directors to the Board and, in some cases, to approve certain senior management appointments.

Often the selection of new top management is the NEB's major contribution to the running of its acquisitions (as happens, for example, with Fairway and, more recently, with Monotype). Senior staff from the NEB will then keep in regular touch with the company to monitor progress.

Nevertheless, the NEB has in the past year developed a significant type of state intervention. In so doing, it has not followed the early Wedgwood Benn hopes that it would ruthlessly buy its way into the major successes of British industry; nor has it tried to take over and reorganise industrial giants as some people expected Lord Ryder to attempt. Nor has it developed as a national holding company for all state industrial intervention — the way it has steered clear of Chrysler both three years ago and more recently illustrates that.

Instead, it has, with INMOS, shown one way of mixing the inventiveness and ambitions of the scientist and entrepreneur with the financial power of State funds. Of course there will still be those who argue a matter of principle that the private sector of industry would do better left entirely alone.

The INMOS venture may well turn out to be a major factor, in three or more years time, in deciding the outcome of that argument — if a Conservative Government does not try to dismantle both it and the NEB's entrepreneurial activities in the meantime.

SIR KEITH JOSEPH:

... some slight lowering of the axe with which he has threatened the NEB



SIR LESLIE MURPHY:

... operating a flexible policy with a low public profile



MEN AND MATTERS

The Chinese upstage Canute

Anything the Soviets can do the Chinese can do better — or vice versa. That has long seemed the case in the cold war between the two so I suppose it was inevitable that, once Moscow talked of diverting rivers to run southwards instead of northwards, Peking would respond. Its answer to the Soviet Siberian schemes is to dredge up its own plan. Needless to say in this case the river, the Yangtze, is being moved northwards not southwards.

The problem for the Chinese is that the south of their country has ample water but the north has too little. But now our Peking correspondent, John Hoffmann, tells me that waters from the swollen and wasteful Yangtze are to be pumped 1,000 kilometres to the thirsty environs of Peking.

The scheme, China's most ambitious hydro-engineering project, foresees taking 30bn cubic metres of water each year from Yangtze, near Nanking, uphill and down, across the high-bedded Yellow River. The water is to be raised by 30 pumping stations on a 15-stage "staircase." The volume involved is equivalent to one-half of the flow of the Yellow River but will take only one-thirtieth of the Yangtze's flow.

It is almost a disappointment to find out that the project, like so many larger-than-life Chinese achievements, has been done before. The new waterway is to follow the course of the historic Grand Canal, dug about AD 600 by the Sui Emperor, Yang Di. He wanted to be able to travel comfortably from his capital at Fanchow to Luoyang to see the flowers bloom in the spring. He drafted a million peasants to excavate the canal. Such extravagance was soon to make him the last of the Sui



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dynasty's two monarchs. While Yang Di was messing about with boats, his Tang enemies were using their energies to build armies.

The canal was rebuilt during the era of Mongol supremacy in the 13th century and extended some 200 miles to Tientsin, the destination of the new project. This will involve the dredging of the old canal and, in certain areas, its re-routing. As a result, 4m hectares of land will be newly irrigated and 18m hectares of swampland drained. To whom should credit go for reviving a waterway which makes the Panama Canal seem little more than a puddle? To Chairman Mao, of course, with his plan from the 1950s given the blessing of Chairman Hua this year.

Cheap at the price

It is, American Express announces, a "Very Special Offer Indeed": no less than three nights at the Carlton Tower,

"London's most exclusive hotel," for two people at a mere £216.

That price includes breakfast and dinner but continued to stick by the rules. "We asked the hotel to let us have a discount of 35 per cent on the normal room rate. Why was such a discount necessary in the high autumn season? I asked — only to be told that business was not as bright as it had been in Jubilee year."

U.S. businessmen are staying fewer nights and the hotel wants to encourage its U.S. business clients to bring their wives along for the weekend. And what has been the response to an offer so hard to refuse? "Not at all good."

Claim allowed

My note last week about tax-deductible fines in Canada has prompted a reader to ask whether bribes vital to carrying on business qualify as a legitimate expense for tax purposes. The answer, surprisingly, is "yes."

The Salmon Commission on Standards of Conduct in Public Life, set up after the Poulson scandal in 1974, did look into the question of building the word "honest" into the phrase "wholly and exclusively incurred for business." But nothing was done, and the Inland Revenue tells me that even commissions that could be looked at askance in another quarter would not necessarily be excluded — though the inspectorate might want proof that such payments were actually made, and the name of the person concerned. "This might be a practical difficulty," said a spokesman.

BL, formerly British Leyland, took four days to process my question of how its famous "ex gratia payments" were entered on tax returns. "Any commission payments are tax-deduct-

ible," said one of the two spokesmen empowered to handle the delicate subject of the alleged slush fund. "We added a trifle irreverently: 'There is no slush fund.'"

I asked him whether BL proposed taking legal action over a newspaper article a fortnight ago which alleged, with the names of the Swiss bank accounts involved, secret payments of £700,000 and £375,000 to a prominent Saudi and one of his compatriots, and £500,000 to Shari Alexane of Egypt — money supposedly received as a consequence of a contract with the Egyptian army.

I was told that BL did not wish to make an announcement about that just now. And was there any comment on the contents of the article? "No."

Miscalculation

The corporate face of Toshiba (UK) is still a trifle red over a full-page colour supplement advertisement for its micro-miniaturised, paper-thin LC858WA calculator. "An amazing amount of precise functions are included," glows the text — at a cost to Toshiba of just under £4,000 — four arithmetic calculations, mixed as well as sign change, constant power, add-on/discount, memory calculations. Whatever the abilities of this cunning device, the name that appears on it in the photograph is "calculator" (sic). Toshiba tells me the all-too-human mistake was introduced by a photographer doing a spot of "touching up." "It does not matter," said a spokesman. "You cannot get this model in Britain anyway." So why the advertisement? There has been some sort of mix-up at head office in Tokyo.

An 8-page guide to the Southampton Boat Show



With more than 450 exhibitors the Southampton Boat Show on September 18-23 promises to be bigger and better than ever. Along with the 8 page pull-out guide to the show, this month we feature a concise preview of the many new boats and pieces of equipment. Our Cowes Week Report takes a look at the bigger yachts and details of all the racing. There's an article on kitesurfing — would you let your dog? Plus a report on the Round Britain Race and all our usual and unusual features.

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Observer

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Thursday August 31 1978

Period
of major
growth
ahead

Aerospace

By Michael Donne

Aerospace Correspondent

AMONG THE most significant of the aircraft manufacturing decisions already taken this summer include that by Airbus Industrie, the European consortium building the increasingly successful A-300 Airbus, to launch the new A-310, 200-seater version, backed with substantial orders from such airlines as Air France, Lufthansa and Swissair, with options from such U.S. airlines as Eastern. The launch of the 310 was swiftly followed by the decision of United Air Lines of the U.S. to buy the Boeing 737 twin-engine airliner, effectively also launching that programme on to world markets and providing Airbus Industrie with a powerful competitor.

More recently, Lockheed of the U.S. has made it clear that it is also in the battle for the big "200-seater markets" of the future, with the Dash 400 version of the TriStar, but McDonnell Douglas of the U.S. has decided not to compete in this section of the market, and has shelved its original DC-3-200 design, preferring instead to concentrate on its plans in other areas, including the continued development of its highly successful DC-9 series, further versions of the DC-10, and development of the short-to-medium range Advanced Technology Medium Range (ATMR) transport.

These decisions are likely to be supplemented soon by further major developments. Britain has been discussing at government level with France and West Germany for several months the terms for a UK resumption of membership of the European Airbus Industrie consortium, to help develop the A-310. This also carries with

it the longer-term question of whether the European consortium will develop a new series of short-to-medium range airliners in what is called the Joint European Transport (JET) programme, and whether the UK would also share in such developments. These latter aircraft would be competitive with two major ventures proposed in the U.S.—the two-engine Boeing 737 and the McDonnell Douglas ATMR—by either of which Britain could have a stake if it did not wish to participate in the JET programme.

At the same time, formal Government approval for the development of several new Rolls-Royce aero-engines is awaited—the Dash 635 version of the RB-211 which is on offer for both the 737 and ATMR ventures, and the proposed RB-432 "Spey replacement" and the smaller RB-401 engine for the next generation of business jets and other light transports. All of these engines are of vital significance for the long-term future of Rolls-Royce in world aero-engine markets.

Approval

These are not the only actual or potential developments this summer on the aerospace manufacturing scene. In Britain the Government has given approval for British Aerospace to launch the £250m Type 146 "feeder-liner" at the same time giving

This has been a dramatic summer for the world's aerospace and airline industries, and they go to this year's Farnborough Air Display conscious that the decisions already taken and those that are likely before the end of the year will reshape the manufacturing and operating sides of world aviation for the rest of the century.

British Airways permission to buy 19 Boeing 737 short-haul jet airliners for the immediate replacement of its ageing Trident Ones and Twos, and One-Elevens in its fleet, with the additional requirement that the airline also negotiates with British Aerospace for purchase of between three and six new One-Elevens.

While this latter decision may have appeared to be a blow to the longer-term prospects of the One-Eleven, that aircraft in fact now has a secure future as a result of the deal between British Aerospace and Romania for the eventual provision of up to 80 aircraft for the latter over the next 15 years, of which most will be built under licence in Romania, while British Aerospace is also now exploring the prospect of a major One-Eleven deal with Japan, also involving some manufacturing under licence there.

The main reason for this flurry of activity in the aerospace manufacturing scene is the realisation that the world's airlines are now moving closer to a period of major re-equipment with new aircraft, as a result both of a recovery in the rate of growth of world air traffic, and new government decisions in the U.S. and elsewhere that have tightened up noise regulations in such a way as would make many of the airlines' existing fleets unacceptable

at major airports in the mid-1980s. This situation has coincided with the fact that many of the existing short-to-medium haul jets are ageing anyway, and are becoming increasingly expensive to run as fuel costs rise. The net effect of all these factors is the need to replace the fleets.

Outlays

This re-equipment tide that is just about to flow through the world's airlines is expected to involve outlays of some \$40bn up to the mid-1980s on about 3,000 or more airliners. While this demand will be spread across the entire spectrum of types, from the existing Boeing 747 Jumbo jets down to the small feeder-liners of the 146 type, most of the demand seems likely to occur in the short-to-medium haul field, which is why there is so much emphasis on the new generation of 200-seaters and smaller 130-180 seaters. Thus, the manufacturers are heading for a sales bonanza that could rival, if not exceed, the inflow of the new generation of jets that replaced the piston-engined and turbo-propeller era of the mid to late 1950s.

The general belief is that this re-equipment tide is likely to be swift, and that within a little more than five years or so, a substantial proportion of the orders for the rest of this cen-

tury will have been placed as airlines scramble for places in the delivery queues so as not to be left at a competitive disadvantage, or without adequate new equipment in 1985-86 when the new noise regulations become effective and render obsolete much of today's fleets. Then, after there will be a sharp rate of growth, but nevertheless sales should remain at reasonably high levels through the rest of the 1980s and into the 1990s, if traffic growth continues at even an average of 6 to 8 per cent a year.

But if as a result of traffic growth and new governmental regulations that will enforce fleet obsolescence, the manufacturers seem headed for a long period of good business, the airlines themselves have some considerable problems to overcome. Among these is the mounting pressure from the public for ever-cheaper air fares—as evidenced by the undoubted popularity this past summer of such cheap-rate fares as Sir Freddie Laker's Skytrain and lines Stand-by and Budget Plan fares. But while these cheap rates have been popular with the public, there is still some doubt as to their impact on airline profits, especially on international routes such as the North Atlantic.

While inside the U.S. there seems to be little doubt that the rapid spread of cheap fares has

improved load factors and contributed to profitability this past summer, on the international routes a much greater degree of caution prevails and most airlines flying the North Atlantic believe that there is danger in pushing the cheap-fares revolution too far too fast and they are not yet prepared to admit that cheap rates are generating new traffic; and thus governments of the airlines concerned—has come from the governments themselves and not least the U.S. Government, which have shown themselves increasingly impatient with the cumbersome procedures.

The exception to this is undoubtedly the Skytrain, which has been a resounding success in terms of full aircraft, long queues of would-be cheap fare travellers outside Victoria Station in London and profits in Sir Freddie Laker's balance sheet. So strongly has the idea of Skytrain prevailed that the U.K. Government felt constrained recently to uphold the earlier Civil Aviation Authority decision to award Laker Airways another Skytrain route, to Los Angeles.

While this cheap-fare revolution has been in progress a quieter revolution, but a revolution nonetheless, has been in progress within the scheduled airline industry itself, with a radical revision of the regulations of the world's airline "Parliament"—the International Air Transport Association—designed to enable the scheduled airlines to cope more effectively with rapidly changing

conditions in the market.

Perhaps the most significant of these changes are those enabling airlines to compete more directly in fares and conditions of in-flight service than has been possible for many years. Much of the impetus for these changes—which are still subject to approval by governments of the airlines concerned—has come from the governments themselves and not least the U.S. Government, which have shown themselves increasingly impatient with the cumbersome procedures.

These changes are still being discussed inside IATA, but they are expected to be finalised this autumn, and to go to governments for approval later this year or early next, with full implementation expected next summer. If they fulfil the hopes of many of the world's major airlines, they should revolutionise the competitive ability of the scheduled operators, and help give an impetus to traffic growth, which in turn is likely to stimulate demand for new aircraft equipment in the period immediately ahead.

The big worry behind all this is that the airlines do not know just how far this new era of cheap fares will go, and whether the greater competition is likely to generate traffic growth, and thus stimulate profits—for it is only

from higher profits that the airlines will be able to meet the re-equipment bills that they know they are going to face in the years immediately ahead. While there is currently much preoccupation with the civil aerospace scene, the military aircraft picture is also bright. Despite efforts by the U.S. to de-escalate the arms race, demand for military aircraft world-wide remains strong, and in NATO alone there is considerable pressure to build up combat aircraft forces particularly to counter the current NATO imbalance against Warsaw Pact of 2.4 to 1. In Western Europe, production of the General Dynamics F-16 is building up rapidly, while the Anglo-West-German-Italian Panavia Tornado is in full production to meet an eventual requirement for 809 aircraft.

Beyond the Tornado, work in Britain is under way on the evolution of a new advanced tactical combat aircraft, intended as a replacement for the Jaguar jet strike-trainer and Harrier vertical take-off aircraft in the late 1980s, known at present only as Air Staff Target 403. This is eventually likely to be a major international collaborative venture, involving several hundreds of aircraft and costing several billion pounds in research, development and quantity production. Current work is involved on refining the design concept to meet not only the RAF's requirements, but hopefully also those of other European countries which might have a requirement for a similar aircraft in a similar timescale, thereby enabling an international collaborative programme to get under way.

Also in the military field, Westland Aircraft of Yeovil, is preparing a new design for the replacement of the big Sea King helicopter for the late 1980s, known as the WG-34. Here again, a major programme is envisaged, with international collaboration being sought from the start so as to ensure the widest possible market and the greatest spread of the costs burden.

Apart from all these considerations, there are some other major long-term areas of vital significance for the UK aerospace industry that the Government needed to consider in planning future programmes. Of especial significance in

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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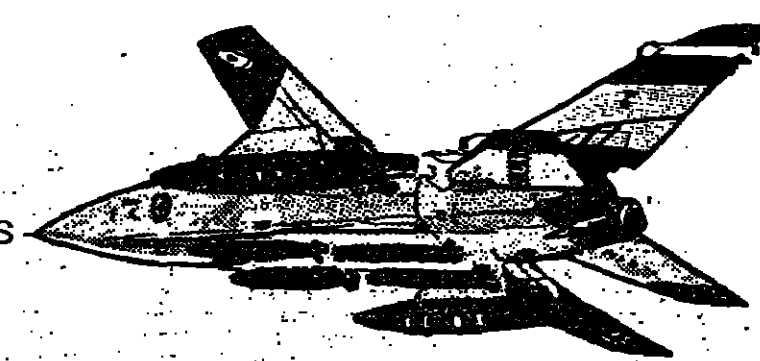
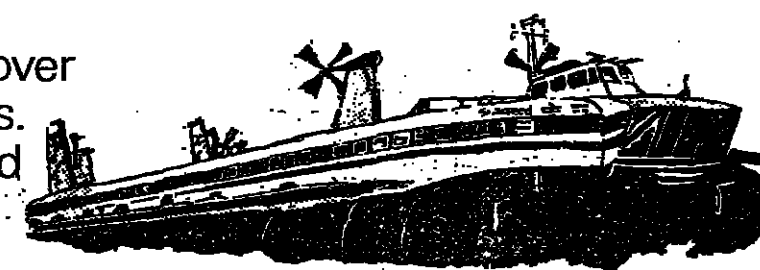
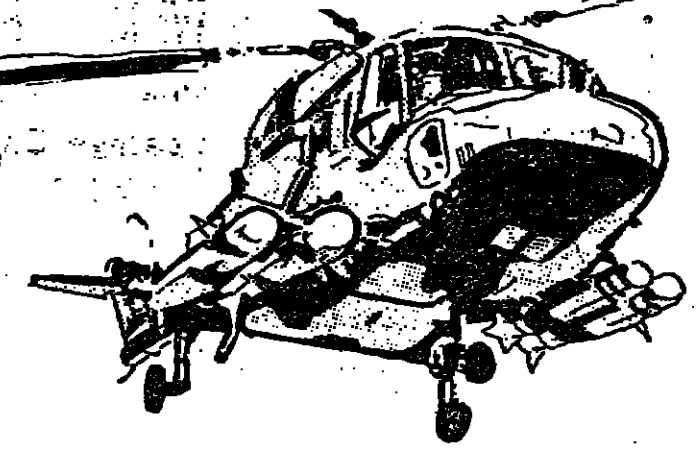
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AEROSPACE II

New name heads Britain's effort

ONE OF the major changes that will be apparent to all the visitors at this year's Farnborough air display will be the emergence of a new name, British Aerospace, in place of several famous names that have dominated the show for many years past—British Aircraft Corporation, Hawker Siddeley Aviation, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics and Scottish Aviation. These companies have now been nationalised, and their individual identities merged into that of the new organisation, which now represents the biggest single entity in UK civil and military aerospace, guided weapons and space research affairs.

It is important, however, to make that distinction, for although British Aerospace, with nearly 69,000 employees, is a dominant voice, it does not represent the entire UK aerospace industry. Operating independently of British Aerospace, under the separate aegis of the National Enterprise Board, is the State-owned Rolls-Royce, with close on 60,000 workers and a turnover of over £700m last year, of which £318m were in exports. In addition, the UK aerospace industry includes Short Brothers and Harland, the light transport aircraft, missiles and general aviation engineering company of Belfast with about 7,000 workers, now also state-owned but operating under the aegis of the Northern Ireland Government.

Totally independent of these State-owned organisations, however, there are many private enterprise companies. Prominent in the manufacturing field is the Westland Aircraft Group of Yeovil, which includes Westland Helicopters and the British Hovercraft Corporation as well as the specialist engineering company, Normalair-Garrett. A smaller, independent light transport aircraft manufacturer is Britten-Norman (Bembridge) of the Isle of Wight, building the Islander and Trislander aircraft, and which is now being taken over by Pilatus Flugzeugwerke of Stans, near Lucerne, Switzerland, which is part of the Oerlikon-Bührle group.

Supporting

In addition to these direct manufacturers of aircraft, missiles, hovercraft, helicopters and space equipment, at least another 60,000 workers in the industry are employed in the equipments, components, systems and other ancillary fields directly supporting the aircraft, engine and missile manufacturers, through such major private enterprise groups as the Dowty Group, GEC-Marconi Electronics Group, Lucas Aerospace, the Plessey Group and Smiths Industries, with Ferranti also a major contributor but which is now a subsidiary of the National Enterprise Board.

Collectively, all these companies comprise the UK aerospace industry, which with a total of close on 190,000 employees, and a turnover well in excess of £2bn a year, is the second biggest aerospace industry in the Western world, after that of the U.S. The industry's collective exports continue to run at record levels, and for the first six months of this year they amounted to more than £500m, indicating that for the year as a whole they are likely once again to exceed the £1bn figure.

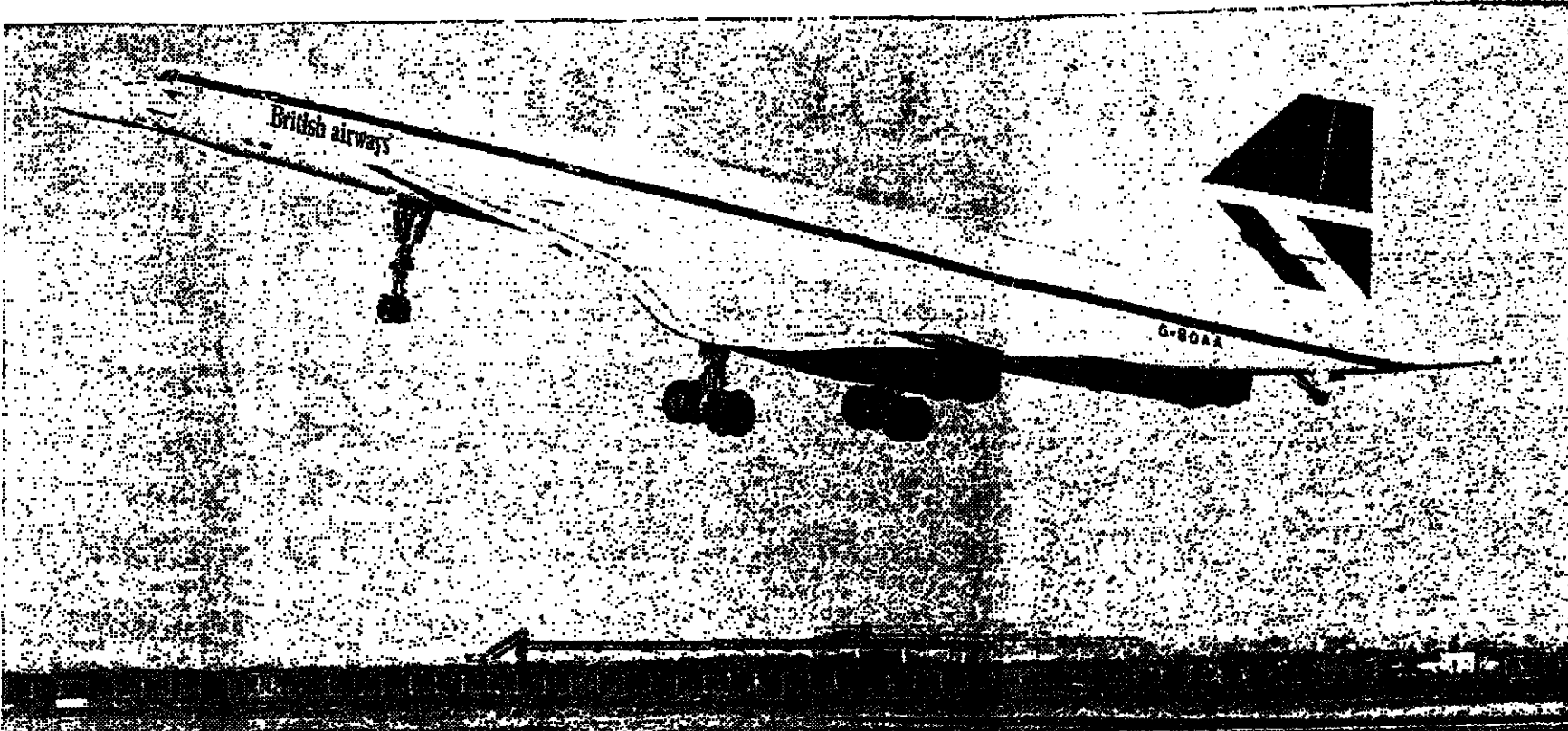
So far as British Aerospace itself is concerned, the group as a whole achieved in its first year of operation up to Decem-

ber 31, 1977 (which included results for individual companies in the three months immediately prior to Vesting Day in April), total sales of £860m, of which 62 per cent, or £536m were in exports. The trading profit of the group amounted to £65m, with a profit after tax of £29m, representing a return of 8 per cent on sales. Orders in hand at the end of the year amounted to £2,283m.

These are the bald facts behind the initial performance of the nationalised aerospace industry. While some of the credit for it can go to the newly-established Board of British Aerospace, under the chairmanship of Lord Beswick, much of the foundation for the financial success of 1977 was, of course, laid a long time before, while the constituents of the new group were still independent. It is now the main task of Lord Beswick and his team to build on the foundations laid by their predecessor Boards in the original companies.

Much of the first year's activity of the new group has been dominated by reorganisation, without interrupting the flow of work in civil and military aircraft, guided weapons and space research upon which the group depends for its future. The day to day operational responsibility inside British Aerospace is now delegated to two groups—the Aircraft Group, responsible for all civil and military aircraft work, and the Dynamics Group, responsible for space research and guided weapons.

Below these two groups, responsibility is further delegated to divisions formed partly on the basis of geographical convenience and partly on functional or product factors. The



Although production of Concorde is now nearing completion, the aircraft will remain in service for many years until a "second generation" supersonic airliner emerges, perhaps in the 1990s.

aim of Lord Beswick and his team is to encourage the maximum of local initiative whilst securing the benefits of corporate strength and overall utilisation of resources. The group as a whole has 23 factories throughout the UK, with 11 airfields. Since the Second World War, it has built no less than 224,000 civil and military aircraft of all kinds, from Concorde supersonic airliners down to small Bulldog light basic trainers.

Military aircraft currently in production include the Harrier vertical take-off fighter; the

Tornado multi-role combat aircraft; the Jaguar jet strike-trainer and the Hawk basic trainer and light combat aircraft. Civil types in production include the last of the Concorde; wings for the European A-300 Airbus; and full production of the HS-748 feeder-liner; the HS-125 executive jet and the One-Eleven twin-engine jet airliner. The last Trident has left the production line at Hatfield, but its place is about to be taken by the 146 feeder-liner, discussed later.

The contract for work on the

wings for the European A-300 Airbus, is a particularly significant development for British Aerospace. With firm orders for over 108 aircraft, and options on more than 50 aircraft, the Airbus is selling exceptionally well. British Aerospace not only provides wing-sets for the B-2 and B-4 versions of the aircraft, but also has a design consultancy and support role. The Hatfield, Chester Division has so far delivered more than 80 sets of wings to Europe for completion in Bremen and final assembly in Toulouse. In addition, British Aerospace has provided design services and marketing, product and flight-test support, and the whole venture has been worth over £200m. Five British Aerospace factories are involved (Hatfield, Chester, Brough, Manchester and Hamble) and around 2,000 design, administrative and production personnel are employed in this increasingly successful and profitable programme.

Among guided missiles in production or development are the Rapier anti-aircraft missile; the Sea Wolf ship-borne point defence guided missile; the Sky Flash air-to-air weapon; the Swingfire anti-tank missile; the Martlet air-to-surface tactical strike missile; the SeaRAM short-range close-combat air-to-air weapon; the Sea Skua light-weight anti-ship missile system, and the Land and Sea Dart area defence system against high and low flying aircraft.

Satellites

Space activities include a wide range of satellites for both scientific research and commercial applications, including the Marots maritime communications satellite for the European Space Agency (as part of the European MESH consortium); the Intelsat IVA series of satellites (under contract to Hughes Aircraft of the U.S.); and (as prime contractor) the recent European Space Agency's GEOS-2 scientific satellite.

A major contribution to the group's business is now also being made by the sale of expertise to foreign countries under what are called "defence support contracts," whereby both specialist advice and hardware is made available in "package deals" worth in some cases several hundreds of millions of pounds. Examples of this include the deals with Saudi Arabia, whereby the

original British Aircraft Corporation took responsibility for the pilot and ground crew training of the Royal Saudi Air Force, for the maintenance and support of aircraft, for development and operating an efficient supply system, and for the construction and maintenance of the buildings and plant. A big year into the 1990s. About half the total output will be for Romanian domestic use and the remainder for external markets. Eventually, customers will be able to buy identical One-Elevens from both Britain or Romania.

While much interest is currently being shown in the civil airliner manufacturing side of the British Aerospace group's activities, and especially in the question of a share in developing a new short-to-medium range civil aircraft for the big markets of the future, it is a fact that the bulk of the group's activities lie currently in the military, guided weapons and space fields, accounting for up to about 70 to 75 per cent of total current turnover. On the civil side, much of the slack that was being generated by the run-down of some major programmes of the past, such as Concorde and Trident, can now be expected to be taken up by the 146 feeder-liner programme, and the continuation of the One-Eleven production through the recently-signed Romanian agreement.

The latter provides for the licensed production of 80-plus One-Eleven twin-engine airliners over the next 15 years. The programme, worth many millions of pounds in exports to Britain, will move in phases towards the eventual complete assembly of One-Elevens under licence in Romania in parallel with production in the Bristol, Weybridge and Hurn factories of British Aerospace. Over £100m of the agreement is also concerned with the joint manufacture of 225 Rolls-Royce Spey engines which power the One-Eleven. Eventually, about half the Spey parts will be produced in Romania. The programme will begin with three One-

Versions

The other major development with long-term importance for British Aerospace was the Government approval this summer for the full-scale development and production of the original Hawker Siddeley HS-146 four-engine short-haul feeder-liner, now known as the British Aerospace 146. This £250m programme envisages two civil versions of the aircraft being built (with some foreign participation in manufacture), the Series One model seating 70 to 90 passengers and the Series Two which will be a little larger, seating 80 to 109 passengers. A military version of the aircraft is also mooted. The engines will be provided by Avco Lycoming of the U.S. The aim by British Aerospace is to fly the prototype in 1980 and to have aircraft available for delivery from 1981-82. The group is hopeful that it can win orders eventually for up to 350 of these aircraft, out of an estimated total market of about 1,200 aircraft in the broad "feeder-liner" category. It is likely to be an arena of fierce competition, however, for many second-hand existing twin-jet airliners of the One-Eleven, Boeing 737 and McDonnell Douglas DC-9 category will find their way into this market as their original owners, equipping with bigger aircraft, pass their older jets on down the line to smaller operators in the Third World. Nevertheless, British Aerospace remains convinced that it can find a market and its salesmen are on the road already, with the hope of some contracts before the end of this year.

Michael Donne

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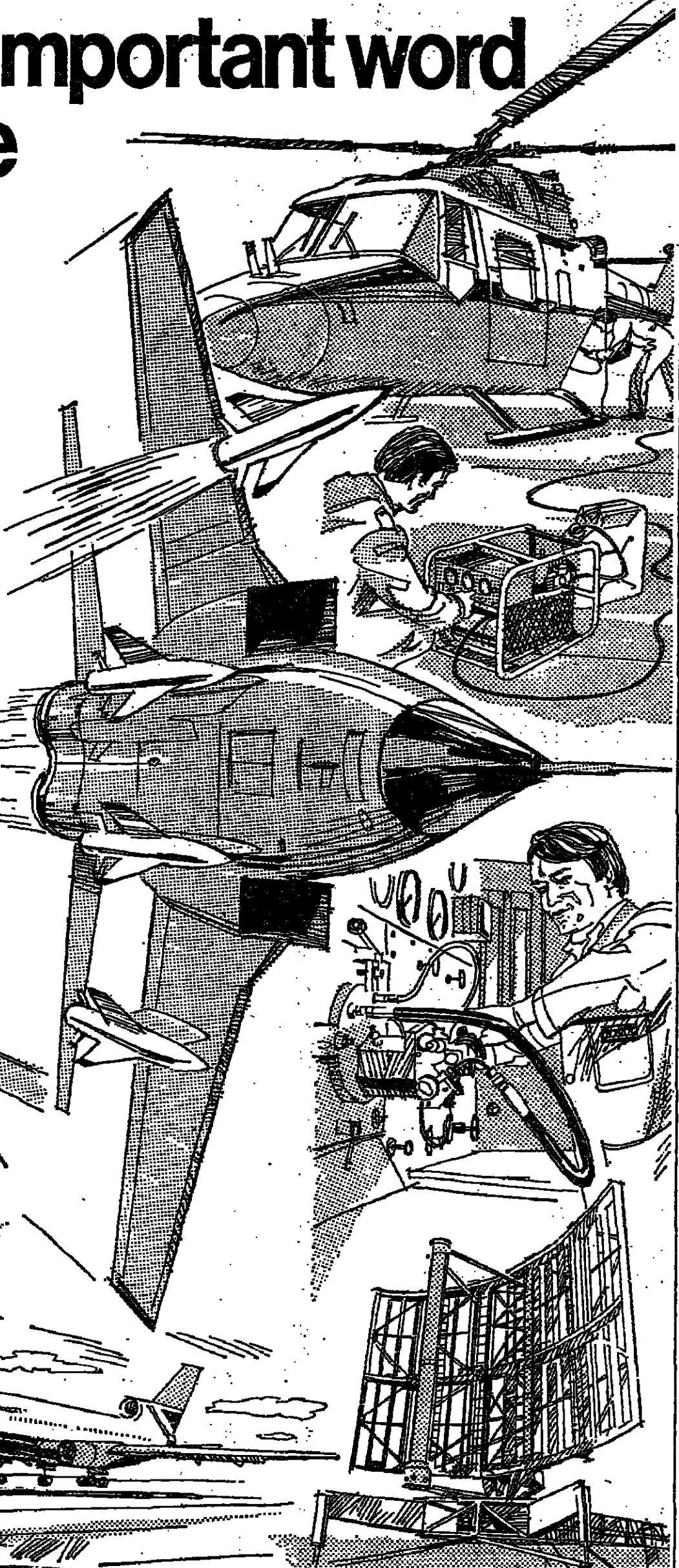
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Growth

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

calculating the future strategy for British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce is the volume of investment required.

The programmes currently envisaged collectively are likely to account for investment of more than £1bn—the 146 alone will account for £250m, any share in the Airbus A-310 for more than £200m, with over another £200m for a share of any smaller short-to-medium range aircraft in the JET/ATMR/737 category, while the Rolls-Royce RB-211-535 engine will cost over £250m, and with at least a further £200m needed for the RB-432 "Spey Replacement" for One-Eleven developments and the RB-401 engine for smaller aircraft. Much of this investment will be generated internally by the industry itself, but nonetheless the Government faces a major aerospace spending programme.

With investment of this magnitude at stake, it is imperative that the UK industry is steered along the most potentially profitable lines. Over recent months, however, there have been strong indications

that the three major elements in UK aviation—British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce and British Airways—have been speaking with disparate voices, with British Aerospace anxious to link with Europe, and Rolls-Royce and British Airways anxious to link with Boeing on the 737 venture. This has undoubtedly delayed decisions on future policy.

Harmonise

What is clear is that there is a need for some machinery that could try to harmonise these disparate views well in advance of Government international negotiations on policy, so that a coherent programme can be developed without delay. A Central Aerospace Policy Coordinating Committee, for example, might well be established that would in no way interfere with the day-to-day running of British Airways, Rolls-Royce, British Aerospace and the rest of the industry.

But it could harmonise their views, together with those of

the Government through the Departments of Industry, Trade, Treasury and Foreign Office, and those of other elements in UK aviation, including the Civil Aviation Authority and even the Central Policy Review Staff (the "think tank") itself. In this way long-term coherent policy objectives could be formulated, often well in advance of emerging market trends, and an overall UK aerospace policy laid down—much in the same way that the former Transport Aircraft Requirements Committee of the late 1940s and 1950s help to lay the groundwork for the Viscount, Comet, and other early post-war civil aircraft.

A similar kind of long-term strategic body has been set up this summer to consider future airports policy in this country, and there is every reason why a similar organisation, small and tightly knit, could be employed to solve problems in aerospace as they arise, obviating much of the indecision and divergencies of view that have characterised the UK aerospace scene not only this summer but also for years past.

Engine makers gear up for battle

WITH THE long-awaited re-equipment tide now on the verge of flowing through the world's airline and aerospace industries, the major aero-engine manufacturers are gearing up for what may become the biggest commercial struggle they have seen for many years.

For with only very few exceptions, all the new-generation airframes being proposed on both sides of the Atlantic are being offered with a choice of engines. This is deliberate policy on the part of the airframe manufacturers, as a means of widening their eventual sales. It represents a significant change from the days when an airframe maker chose one aero-engine partner, and stayed with him throughout the life of his aircraft programme. Today, however, the airframe maker starts by studying the available engine market, and builds his airframe so as to suit as wide a possible variety of powerplants capable of achieving the range-payload targets he has set himself.

Brands

This is already resulting in some major types flying the world routes with different brands of engine—the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet, for example, uses all three of the “big thrust” engines, the Rolls-Royce RB-311, the General Electric CF6-50 Series and the Pratt and Whitney JT-9D. It is also resulting in some bitterly contested battles for engine contracts. The Rolls-Royce RB-211, for example, although the original “launch engine” for the Lockheed TriStar, had to fight hard to win the contract this summer from Pan American for the engines in that airline's new fleet of 12 long-range Dash 500 TriStars, for Pan Am closely studied all three possible engine-airframe combinations before deciding that the RB-211's performance justified it in departing from its long-standing commitment to engines from Pratt and Whitney.

In that particular competition, the financing terms offered by Rolls-Royce played a significant part in winning the contract for the RB-211, and it is becoming a new fact of life in the commercial aircraft and aero-engine market worldwide that where competing projects are balanced on a knife-edge so far as performance is concerned, the order may well be won by the project whose maker can offer the best long-term financial arrangements. The UK and European manufacturers have quickly latched on to this situation, and it is likely that finance will continue to play as much a part as performance in settling some of the big contests that lie ahead.

There has been some criticism in U.S. political circles recently of the way in which airframe and engine deals won by European companies in the U.S. market have been supported by government or other financial guarantees. The implication is that some of these deals have been won unfairly by the Europeans. This, of course, is nonsense. The U.S. aerospace industry itself has for long recognised that European and UK airframe and engine products are of first-class quality, and that where those programmes have been supported by Government development money, it is only natural that Governments should help to underwrite sales. Moreover, with the U.S. industry itself already possessing more than 80 per cent of the Western world's air transport markets, it cannot complain if some European counter-attack is launched to win back some of the ground lost over the past 25 years or more. Nevertheless, both the engine and airframe makers on this side of the Atlantic are well aware that the political groundswell caused by the European victories in the U.S. market (the Airbus sale to the Air Lines, for example, and the Rolls-powered TriStars for Pan Am) may result in moves to block such sales in future on the grounds of “unfair competition.”

Earlier this summer, for example, a U.S. Treasury official involved in international trade policies, told a House of Representatives Ways and Means Subcommittee that the U.S. Government was concerned over some of the financing arrangements on recent European deals for engines and airframes in the U.S., which he described as having “gone beyond an international understanding on export credit terms for commercial aircraft.” He said that at a meeting this October, an export credit panel of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will provide a forum for a take-off thrust range of be-

begin negotiations to “strengthen” the international export credit understandings, including those dealing with airframe and engine exports from Europe to the U.S. He suggested that if other countries did not agree on export credit restraints, the U.S. might be forced to retaliate. This implied threat of retaliation, however, is not deterring the European aircraft and engine manufacturers from continuing their campaigns to win sales in the U.S. market.

Another factor in the current engine scene is that because of the high cost of developing entirely new jet engines, the trend is more and more towards the evolution of “families” of engines. All three of the “giant” manufacturers have taken their basic big-thrust engines, originally developed for the first-generation wide-bodied jets, and are developing them both upwards in power into the 50,000-60,000 lbs mark and downwards towards the 30,000 lbs thrust mark, so as to be able to span the widest possible spectrum of airframes and range-payload performances that the manufacturers and the airline customers may desire.

For the new generation of short-to-medium range jets now on offer or proposed, the choice of engine is being left absolutely to the customer airline. Probably, the only significant exception to this broad rule of “if you want it, you can have it” is in the proposed Joint European Transport (JET) programme, where the various versions of the twin-jet airliner planned in this series are being specified at least initially with the new generation Franco-U.S. (Sneema-General Electric) CFM-56 engine.

One immediate result of this wide availability of choice is that the airlines which already have a specific manufacturer's engines in their existing fleets of first-generation wide-bodied jets, will also be able to specify derivatives of those same powerplants for any of the new-generation airframes now coming forward. This applies to the 200-seat A-310 on offer from Airbus Industrie as well as the bigger B-2 and B-4 versions of the Airbus; to the Boeing 767 twin-jet airliner, now formally launched with the big order for 30 aircraft from United Air Lines; to the Boeing 777 tri-jet; and to most of the other designs on offer in the smaller 130-180 seater category, such as the proposed Boeing 757 twin-jet and the McDonnell Douglas Advanced Technology Medium Range (ATMR) programme.

Fierce

This competition between the three major aero-engine manufacturers is likely to become very fierce indeed, and some very substantial sums have been, and still are being spent, by the engine builders to perfect their entries for the battles now shaping up in world markets.

In the UK, Rolls-Royce is already strongly placed with the RB-211, which in its Dash 22 and Dash 524 versions has already won a considerable reputation in both the Lockheed TriStar and, with the Dash 524, also in the Boeing 747. Now, a new version of the engine, the Dash 535, is under development, aimed at a thrust level between 30,000 and 36,000 lbs thrust, thereby widening the sales opportunities of the RB-211.

This version of the RB-211 has been designed to meet the need for a fuel-efficient, quiet and economic engine for the new generation of medium-sized airliners proposed for service in the mid-1980s, and in particular the proposed Boeing 757 twin-engine and 777 three-engine jets. As a “derivative” engine, the Dash 535 retains the proven advantage of the RB-211, but has lower launch and introductory costs than a totally new design. It has a low fuel consumption, and a thrust-to-weight ratio up to 16 per cent better than for the earlier Dash 22B version of the engine.

A large amount of development work has already been done on it at Rolls-Royce's Derby factory and Rolls-Royce is working closely with Boeing of the U.S. to offer the engine as a prospective “launch engine” in the 757 twin-engine aircraft which Boeing is planning as part of its new family of jets for the rest of this century and beyond. The eventual development cost of the Dash 535 is expected to be in the region of £250m, but Rolls-Royce argues that this investment will be more than adequately recouped from the big market that could emerge worldwide for the 757 aircraft in the years ahead, with sales of the engine perhaps reaching as much as £1bn.

But the competition is undoubtedly formidable. Pratt and Whitney, for example, is offering the JT-10D—in itself a “family” of engines, spanning a take-off thrust range of be-

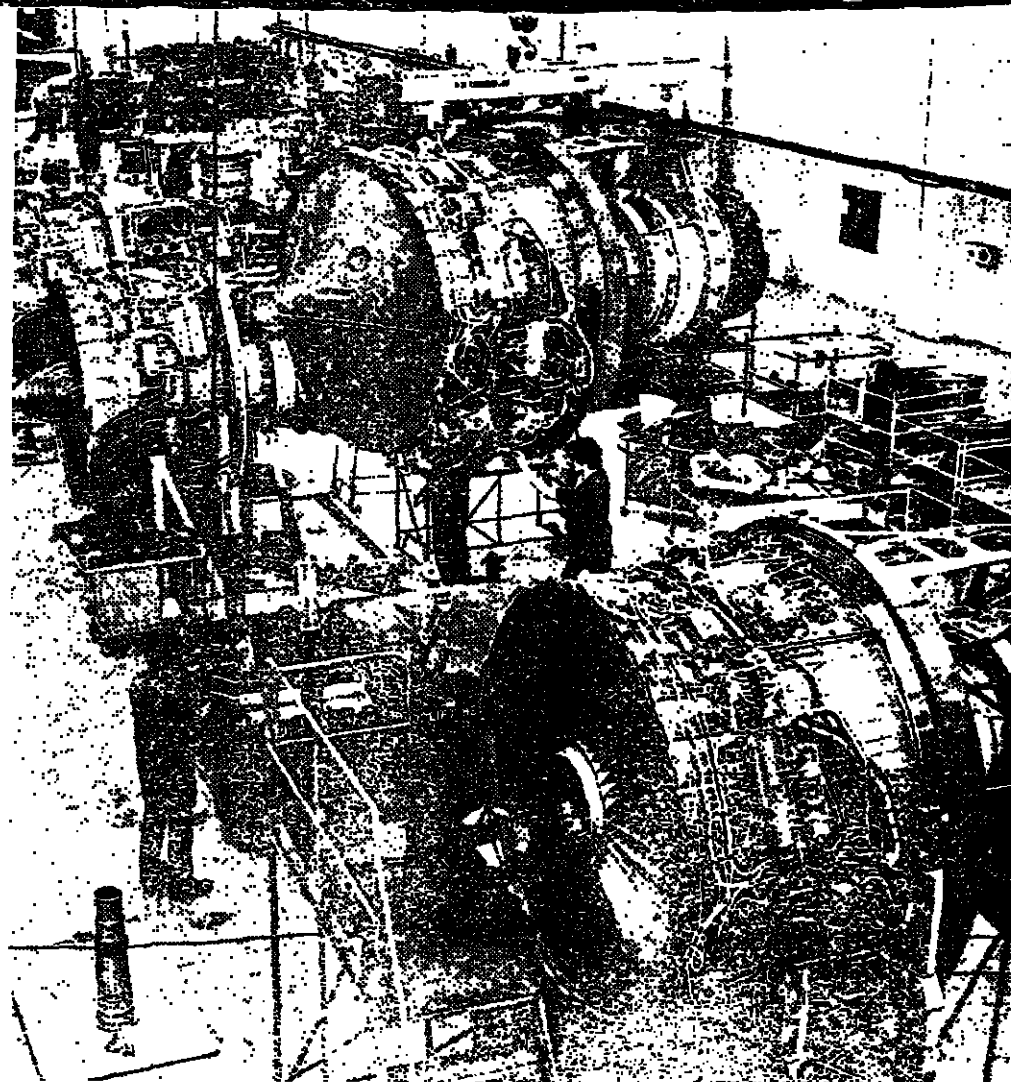
tween 25,000 and 35,000 lbs—which means that they will be capable of competing with the Franco-U.S. CFM-56 at the lower end of the scale, and both the RB-211-535 and General Electric CF6 Series at the upper end. Initially, development work has begun on a power-plant sized at 32,000 lbs take-off thrust, designated JT-10D-152, with certification planned for December 1981. This engine is specifically aimed also at the Boeing 757 and 777 aircraft. Pratt and Whitney is undertaking the bulk of the work on this new family of engines, or about 83 per cent, but it is an international collaborative venture, with Motoren- und Turbinen Union of West Germany having about 13 per cent of the work and Fiat of Italy about 4 per cent.

The third contender in this new category of powerplants is the General Electric CF6-32, a likely derivative of the CF6 series of engines already widely used in long-haul aircraft. The company has for some time been aware that it has a DC-10 jets and European Air-bus emerging in its spectrum of engines. Designed for a take-off thrust of about 36,450 lbs, the existing ageing Spey and Dash 32 engine is also being the lower end of the RB-211, aimed at the new generation the Dash 535 engine. To fill at

least a part of this gap, it has been working for some time on two engines, the RB-401 and RB-432. The RB-432 is a new engine in the 16,000 lbs to 18,000 lbs thrust class, that could effectively be a Spey replacement engine for the future, suitable for a new twin-engine aircraft of the 100-120 passenger size, as well as for re-engining current aircraft in this class.

Below the RB-432 in thrust size lies the new RB-401, a programme to develop an engine starting at about 5,100 lbs thrust that would be suitable not only for business jets but also for a wide range of military projects, such as ground attack or light trainer aircraft, or even remotely-piloted vehicles. The engine is designed to have 40 per cent better fuel consumption than engines which power the first-generation of business jets. Both the RB-401 and RB-432 engines have been designed to meet the anticipated noise and pollution legislation of the 1980s.

Plans But apart from concentrating much of its existing and prospective resources on the development of new versions of the RB-211, Rolls-Royce has plans for other new engines to meet a variety of new civil airframe opportunities that are likely to arise in the near future. The company has for some time been aware that it has a DC-10 jets and European Air-bus emerging in its spectrum of engines. Designed for a take-off thrust of about 36,450 lbs, the existing ageing Spey and Dash 32 engine is also being the lower end of the RB-211, aimed at the new generation the Dash 535 engine. To fill at



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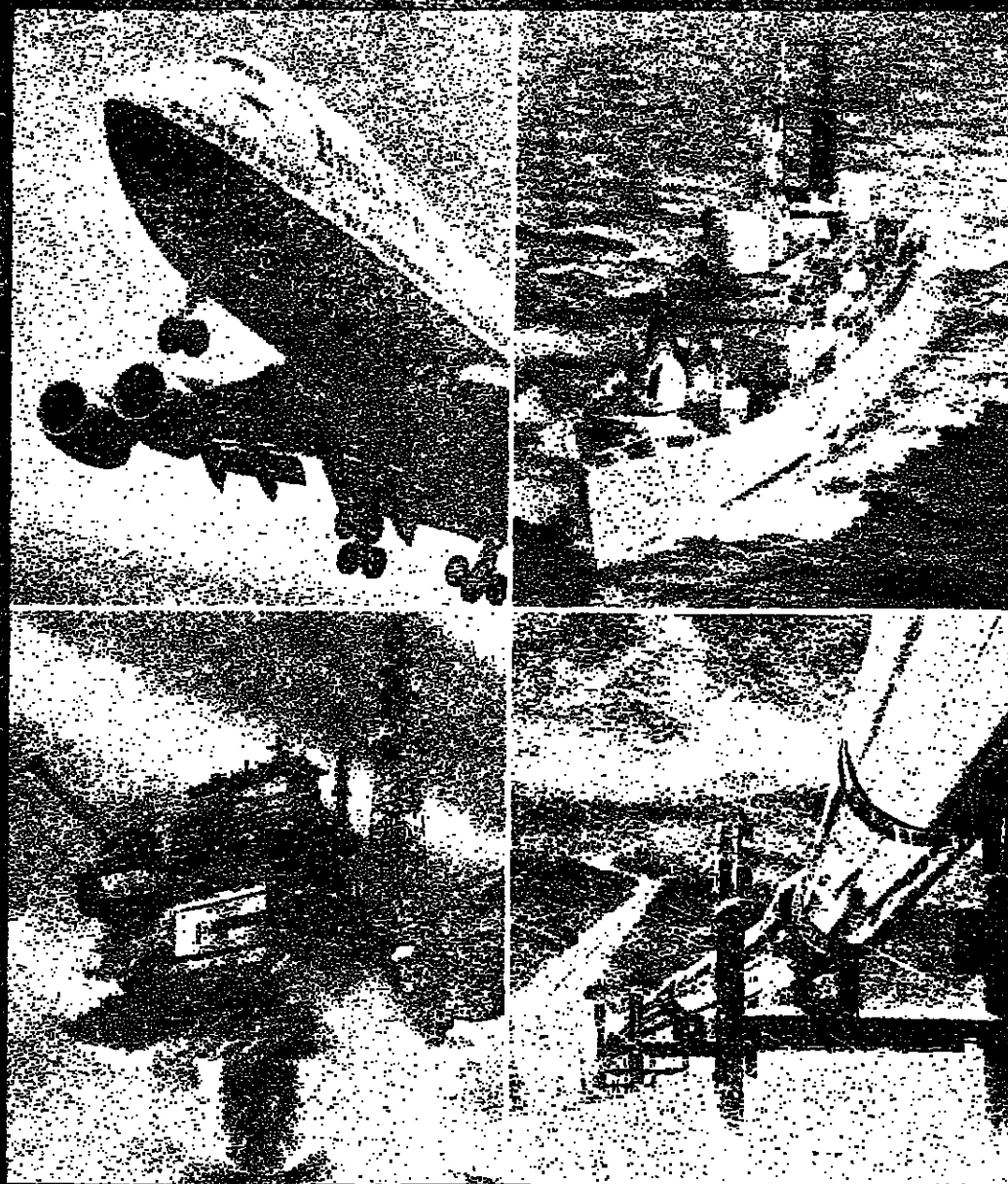
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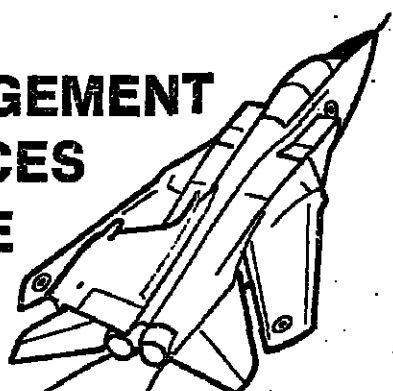


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AEROSPACE IV

Military aircraft sales



The U.S. General Dynamics F-16 air superiority combat aircraft is now in quantity production on both sides of the Atlantic for the U.S. Air Force, and for the air forces of Belgium, Denmark, Holland and Norway, under a joint international manufacturing programme.

THE MARKET for military aircraft throughout the world continues to be strong, with every sign that demand may increase rather than slacken in the immediate future. Estimates of likely sales are difficult to obtain, but with growing emphasis on conventional weapons most reliable forecasts indicate that between now and 1990, several thousand new military aircraft of all types are likely to be added to the NATO inventories alone, including, for example, more than 800 Panavia Tornado multi-role combat aircraft.

U.S. military aircraft production alone in the current financial year is expected to amount to close on 1,000 aircraft, although this includes such widely diverse types as the McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle and General Dynamics F-16 air superiority fighters, the Fairchild Republic A-10 close air support aircraft, the Boeing E-3A Airborne Warning and Control Systems and various helicopters such as the new Utility Tactical Transport UH-60A (of which over 1,000 are eventually expected to be built).

One of the main aims in NATO in maintaining such a high production flow of military aircraft for the immediate future is to try to redress the imbalance that has emerged vis-a-vis the Warsaw Pact. for in the central region of Europe alone the Warsaw Pact's fixed-wing tactical aircraft fleet now outnumbered that of NATO by 2.4 to one.

At the same time, despite efforts by the U.S. and other countries to deescalate the so-called "arms race" throughout the world, and especially in the field of strategic nuclear weapons, many countries continue to spend substantial sums of money on all kinds of conventional tactical combat aircraft taking high priority. Some of the most lucrative contracts for Western aerospace manufacturers in recent years have come from the Middle East, where various countries, including Iran, Israel, and various Arab nations such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait, have been buying in huge quantities of aircraft, and their power, and are likely to continue to do so for some time to come.

Indeed, some of the countries of the Middle East have been especially vigorous in developing not only their air forces but also their own indigenous aerospace industries in recent years. Israel, for example, now has one of the world's most active aerospace manufacturing groups, Israel Aircraft Industries, which although perhaps small by the standards of the UK and U.S. aerospace industries is nonetheless formidable in its technical achievements, having already built the Kfir supersonic combat fighter in substantial numbers.

Arab

Among the Arab nations, plans to develop a military aircraft production capability are progressing through the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), and in recent months some substantial contracts have been signed with Western European countries to help develop aircraft manufacture in Egypt on behalf of a consortium of Arab nations including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Companies in the UK which have benefited from this include Westland Helicopters, which is selling its Lynx multi-purpose helicopter initially to Egypt with the eventual aim of the aircraft being assembled and then manufactured along with the Rolls-Royce Genie engine which powers that helicopter. French aerospace interests are also negotiating weapons deals with the AOI.

Also in the Middle East, Iran has been steadily building up its air force, with substantial purchases of U.S. combat aircraft and helicopters, and is now also establishing an aircraft manufacturing capability, for which it is seeking Western technological support.

It seems likely that, so far as the West is concerned, the major aircraft already in development or production today for the immediate future will be the combat types that will dominate the NATO armouries through the 1980s and beyond. These include such types as the UK-West German-Italian Panavia Tornado multi-role combat aircraft, the new

French Dassault Mirage 2000 which is now flying and the Super Mirage Delta (the prototype of which is due to fly this autumn); the Grumman F-14 Tomcat; the McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle; the General Dynamics F-16, the combined McDonnell Douglas/Northrop F-18 Hornet, and such other aircraft as the McDonnell Douglas Phantom (of which 5,000 have now been delivered), and the famous long-running line of French Dassault Mirage III fighters and Mirage Gs.

But it can be expected that, because of the increasingly high cost of development and production of entirely new military aircraft, most of the new

developments for the 1980s and beyond—at least so far as airframes are concerned—are likely to be derivatives of existing or proposed new types from the list above. This in no way implies that any such derivatives will incorporate only minor changes or improve-

Cautiously

So far as NATO is concerned, future aircraft developments must also take account of standardisation, both as a means of saving costs and of improving overall military efficiency. The RAF itself makes no secret of the fact that it believes that in today's more stringent economic climate it must take forward jumps cautiously—that the well-tried techniques may still be capable of adaptation for new tasks, although in accepting this philosophy this is not to suggest that the radically new is not likely to be acceptable or even essential to meet the emergence of new or swiftly changing requirements.

Thus, it seems likely that many of the types listed above are likely to be seen in service, in one form or another, for much of the rest of this century. In any event, only in the late 1980s or early 1990s, in the light of the military, technological and economic circumstances prevailing at the time, will any radically new designs begin to emerge for service in the next century. Thus, for the immediate future, most of the basic demand for improvements in demand for improvements in aircraft technology will be felt in the domains (airborne electronics) and in the fields, rather than in the airframe itself, although it does seem likely that the engine manufacturers will find themselves under increasing pressure to improve things like

fuel efficiency. But the heaviest demand is likely to be for such things as improved radar and navigation performance, immensely improved target acquisition, identification and tracking procedures, for improved guidance systems for weapons; and for better all-weather and day-and-night operational performance. It is in these fields that innovations will be sought in the immediate future and where much of the available development cash will be spent.

Beyond

For the long-term future, however, in view of the time it takes to develop new types, the U.S. is already embarking on a major research programme to determine the possible performance capabilities of military combat aircraft for the 1990s and beyond. Called the HiMAT, for Highly Manoeuvrable Aircraft Technology, this programme is being run by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in conjunction with the U.S. Air Force. HiMAT has two tasks. The first is to generate aeronautical design advances from the research laboratories into flight testing, and to expand design techniques that will permit quantum jumps in performance from one generation to the next. Rockwell International of the U.S. has designed and built a

remotely-piloted research vehicle about half the size of a modern combat aircraft, that will be flight-tested later this year over the Mojave Desert in California, being launched from a B-52 bomber at 45,000 ft. Engineering studies indicate that HIMAT will have twice the turning capacity of the most manoeuvrable fighter today and it will exploit the properties of advanced composite materials. It is stressed that this is a research programme, and that the U.S. is not about to embark upon fighter design embodying

Studies

This small number of possible solutions is now being increasingly discussed with the air forces and aerospace industries of the NATO countries, to discover if there is any comparable requirement emerging with them, and if so whether an international collaborative effort on the AST-403 can be evolved. The Defence Ministers of the UK, France and West Germany have already broadly agreed that such studies should continue, but there is so far little indication of major West German and French interest in the venture, and it seems so far that the UK has the most pressing requirement for such an aircraft.

International collaboration on such a venture, however, seems inevitable. In view of inflation between now and the late 1980s, when AST-403 is likely to arrive, the overall design, development and production cost of the programme is likely to be several billions of pounds—probably matching or even exceeding the cost of the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft programme itself. It is likely that the UK will require upwards of 400 aircraft alone to meet its Harrier and Jaguar replacement needs, so the production programme is also likely to be a big one. For that reason, it seems unlikely that the UK could ever contemplate undertaking the venture alone, and international collaboration will therefore be essential. If it does not prove possible to achieve such collaboration with Continental countries, because of differing time-scales, military aircraft replacement needs, and pressures on budgets in other directions, it is possible that the UK might seek collaboration in the U.S.

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The next generation of airliners

ALL THE signs now are that the long-expected re-equipment tide has begun to flow through the world's airlines, and over the next few months there is likely to be a steady inflow of new orders, some of them substantial, as operators move quickly to secure their places in the delivery queues for a new generation of short-to-medium range civil airliners.

It has been estimated that between now and the mid-1980s, sums approaching \$74bn, or \$40bn, will be spent by airlines throughout the world on upwards of 3,000 new airliners of all kinds, both to meet the continued rapid growth of world air passenger traffic (it is now expanding at an average annual rate of about 8.7 per cent a year) and to replace rapidly ageing fleets that will become increasingly unacceptable in the mid 1980s as fuel costs rise and increasingly stringent noise regulations are introduced at many of the world's major airports.

An analysis of this expected expenditure shows that more than half of it, or \$47bn (\$26bn) is expected to be spent on new aircraft in the short-to-medium range category, where the vast majority of the world's air passengers already travel, and where most of the growth in the future is likely to occur. The rest will be spent largely in the long-haul field (about \$24bn, or over \$13bn), with a much smaller sum of about \$3bn going on cargo jets to meet the growth in this sector of the commercial airline business.

It is thus in this short-to-medium range section of the market that most of the interest has so far been concentrated, with manufacturers on both sides of the Atlantic busy over recent years preparing designs with which to woo the airlines. The latter for a long time appeared to be extremely reluctant to commit themselves, however, for a variety of reasons. Among these has been the slow recovery of the world's economic situation from the recession that followed the oil crisis of 1973, together with

lack of adequate cash reserves among many carriers.

A more significant factor has also been that many of the existing types of airliner, such as the Boeing 737 and McDonnell Douglas DC-9 short-haul jets, and the Boeing 727 medium-haul airliner, have continued to meet more than adequately the needs of most airlines, and have continued to sell so well that Boeing has been obliged in recent months to step up the production rate of the 737 and 727, while McDonnell Douglas has found it worthwhile to launch a new version of its ubiquitous DC-9, the Series 80.

But while all these aircraft can be expected to continue to sell well over the next few years, for the longer-term, a "new-generation" of jets will be needed to carry the world's air traffic into the 1990s and beyond, to meet the needs of airlines who will need to be able to carry larger payloads as well as meet the governmental and environmental demands for quieter and more fuel-efficient aircraft.

The first of this "new generation" of short-to-medium haul jets has been available, in fact, for some time, in the shape of the 269-seater European A-300 Airbus, which has in the past year or so begun to sell extremely well, winning major orders in its B-2 and B-4 versions worldwide.

Launched

But the real battle is expected now to come in the smaller, 200-seater category of aircraft, where Airbus Industrie, the European consortium that builds the A-300, this past summer formally launched its new A-310 version of the Airbus, with orders and options from such major airlines as Lufthansa, Air France and Swissair, and with several other European airlines also considering contracts.

The A-310 launch was quickly followed by the long-awaited announcement of the formal launching of the Boeing 767, also a twin-engine airliner in

the 200-seater category, and in effect a direct competitor for the 310. The Boeing 767, costing \$26m per aircraft, won an order for 30 aircraft worth over \$1.2bn from United Air Lines of the U.S. (the biggest airline in the Western world)—a contract for which the Airbus Industrie group had also fought hard with the 310.

Recently, too, Lockheed of California staked a claim for a share of this 200-seater market by confirming that it was now making firm offers to airlines of its new version of the TriStar, the Dash 400, based on all three of the big-thrust engines—the Rolls-Royce RB-211-22B, the Pratt and Whitney JT-9D and the General Electric CF-6 series, all of around 42,000 lbs thrust. Lockheed said that the Dash 400 would be able to carry 280 passengers over ranges of 3,200 to 5,050 nautical miles. Lockheed claimed that the Dash 400 would contain "every technological advance that will be available on any transport in the next ten years," including automatic thrust control at take-off, and a new fuel management system.

The other major U.S. manufacturer, McDonnell Douglas, also had originally a design for a 200-seater, the DC-X-200, but has shelved its plan to compete in this section of the future aircraft market.

The battle of the 200-seaters is now joined, with the B-10 directly slotting it out in world markets with the Boeing 767 and the Dash 400.

Below this 200-seater category of jets, however, yet another new family of aircraft is in the gestation stage—those seating variously between about 130 and 180 seats, also for short-to-medium ranges, but serving as complementary aircraft to the bigger 200-seater types. The market here is estimated at anything upwards of 1,000 aircraft by 1990. These programmes include the proposed Joint European Transport (JET) venture, which is also under the aegis of Airbus Industrie, in which there would be two types of aircraft: JET-1,

seating 136 passengers and JET-2 seating 163. Other contenders in this field include the proposed U.S. McDonnell Douglas advanced Technology Medium Range (ATMR) jet transport, and the Boeing 757. All of these designs will be twin-engine, with a variety of powerplants.

The JET family, for example, is being designed round the new Franco-U.S. (Sneema-General Electric) CFM-56 engine, while the ATMR and Boeing 757 specify any one of the three "new generation" cropped-fan engines derived from the present generation of "big thrust" engines—the 535 derived from the Rolls-Royce RB-211, the General Electric CF-6-32 developed from the CF-6 series, and the Pratt and Whitney JT-10D (a new engine).

Spread

The problem with most of these new airliners, however, is that their development costs will be so substantial that the manufacturers will need international collaboration to help spread the burden of costs and widen the market. Boeing has an agreement with Aeritalia of Italy and has been discussing with the Japanese aerospace industry plans for substantial contributions from both countries to the 767 programme, while in Europe the question of UK participation in the development of the 310 with Airbus Industrie has also been under discussion for most of the past summer.

At the same time, there is the question of collaboration on the smaller family of jets. Boeing has offered the UK a collaborative deal on the 757, involving work on up to about 40 per cent of that aircraft, including work on the wings, landing gear, engine nacelles and part of the rear fuselage. The possibility of UK collaboration with McDonnell Douglas on the development of the ATMR has also been discussed. Even if the UK does eventually rejoin Airbus Industrie, and participate in the development of the 310, the question of

what to do about the smaller family of aircraft will still have to be settled—but in a less urgent fashion. The main emphasis at present in world markets appears to be on the bigger 200-seaters, but it seems clear that some decisions on the smaller jet family will also have to be taken by the end of this year. The question is who will move first—Boeing with the 757, McDonnell Douglas with the ATMR, or the Europeans with the JET series? Most observers believe that Boeing is likely to formally launch the 757 by the end of this year, but whoever moves first is likely to spark off another major re-equipment struggle in this smaller jet market.

There are various other areas where the future re-equipment situation seems uncertain. The so-called "feeder-liner" market, for example, in which small 70 to 100-seater airliners are needed to provide "bus stop" air services to many communities round the world which have never had them before, and to feed traffic from small airfields into bigger "hub" airports, is now becoming a lively issue with some manufacturers.

This summer, the UK Government gave British Aerospace permission to go ahead with the £250m Type 146, a four-engine feeder-liner, designed to be built in two versions—the Series 100 carrying 70-90 and the bigger Series 200 carrying 80-109 passengers. A military version of the aircraft is also mooted.

The plan is for the 146 to be pushed ahead rapidly with some foreign participation in manufacture. Some work has been done on it over the past four years while it has been kept "on ice" following cessation of work on the original design in 1974 in the wake of the oil crisis and subsequent industrial recession. Now, it is intended to build it quickly to fly in 1980, and be ready for delivery in 1981-82. If this timescale can be met, the aircraft stands a good chance of winning orders for up to 350 aircraft, representing about one-third of a



The Boeing wide-bodied twin-engine 767 is one of the new generation of short-to-medium haul jet airliners for the mid-1980s and beyond. This 200-passenger aircraft, capable of flying over distances of 2,300 statute miles, has been ordered already by United Air Lines, the biggest airline in the Western world, thus launching Boeing's \$1.5bn development programme for the jet. It is the first new Boeing aircraft design to go into production since the 747 Jumbo jet in 1966.

world market estimated at about 1,200 aircraft of this type over the period up to about 1990. It is an ambitious project, although it is a small aircraft, and one that is likely to test the marketing capabilities of British Aerospace considerably.

So far, no airlines have placed orders for this "feeder-liner"—but it is a market that might well become very crowded, being adequately met in many parts of the world by second-hand twin-jets such as Boeing 737s, McDonnell Douglas DC-9s and UK One-Elevens.

There are some other new types of aircraft that are already challenging the 146, including the Dash 7 already being built by de Havilland in Canada, and the proposed new development of the Dutch Fokker-VFW F-29 twin jet. Thus, the 146 may not have things all its own way.

At the upper end of the market, in the long-range field, the way seems clear for a continued, very long run of success for the big Boeing 747 Jumbo 400-plus seater long-range jet in its various versions. No-one in the Western world at least is ever now likely to be able to invest enough money to develop a challenger to the position which a number of manufacturers have been looking, including Airbus Industrie itself with a four-engine B-11 to carry 180-200 passengers over 6,000 nautical miles; while Boeing is proposing its 777

Underneath the 747, however, lies the market for the big three-engine 200-seater aircraft

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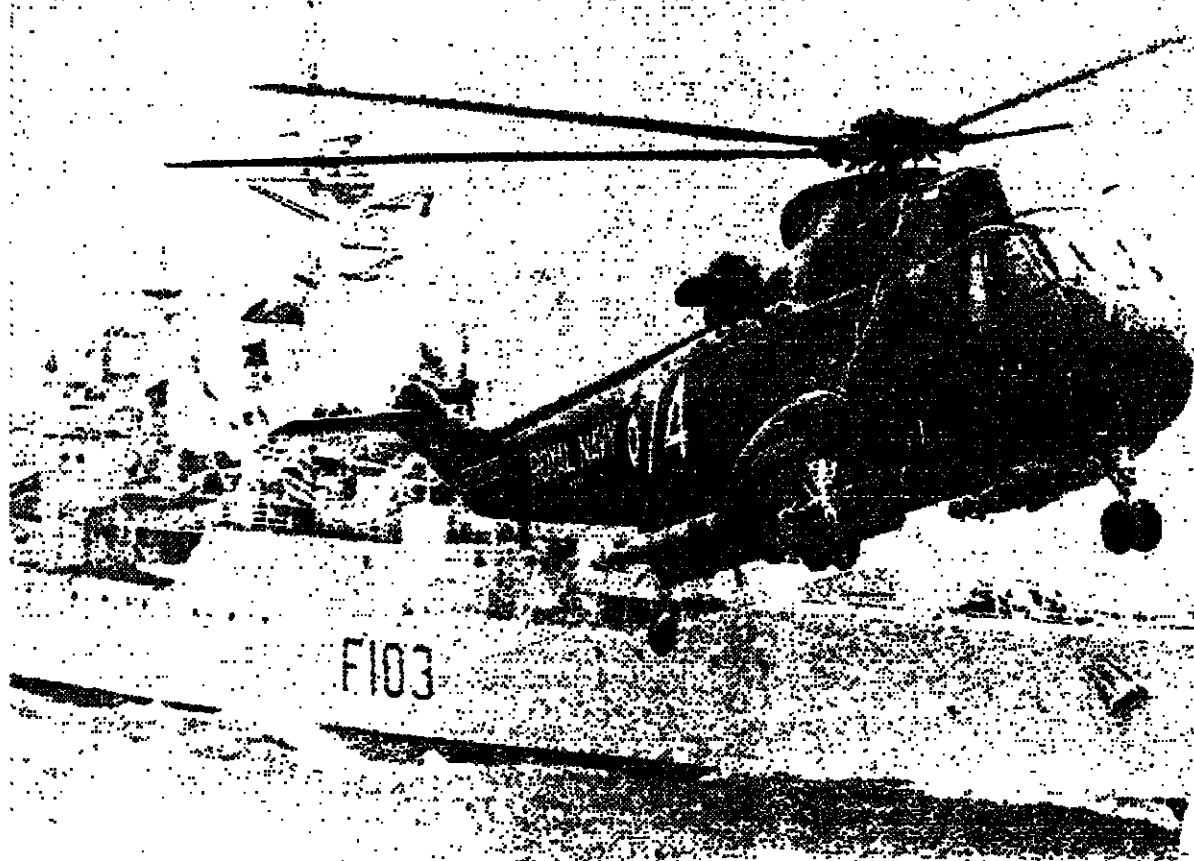
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A Westland Sea King of the Royal Navy. A total of 200 Sea Kings has been ordered by nine nations for anti-submarine, anti-surface vessel, search and rescue, transport and VIP roles.

Big market for helicopters

THE HELICOPTER is now one of the fastest growing areas of world aviation, both in manufacture of aircraft and in the use of the finished civil and military products. While the number of flying hours performed by helicopters is still nowhere near the volume of that by fixed-wing aircraft, it is nonetheless rising at a spectacular rate, especially throughout the countries of the Third World, and is expected to continue. So far as sales are concerned, it is estimated that these amount now to more than £1bn worth of aircraft a year world-wide, and most of the major manufacturers remain convinced that this figure will continue to grow, probably doubling every three to five years, with special emphasis on the development of new types of aircraft for the expanding civil market.

The major growth areas for the helicopter are in the oil, gas and mineral exploration and development fields, executive transport, agricultural applications, law enforcement, emergency medical services of all kinds, and "heavy lift," for example in the construction and forestry industries. So far as the oil, gas and mineral industries are concerned, as the frontiers of exploitable reserves are extended, so is demand likely to grow for vehicles and equipment to exploit those reserves, especially in the immediate offshore areas in many parts of the world. The helicopter is ideally suited to help exploit those offshore development programmes, in view of its inherent flexibility—its ability to land and take-off from small platforms which fixed-wing aircraft cannot use.

The corporate executive transport area is another that is particularly significant for the helicopter. The rapid increase in demand for smaller, comfortable civil helicopters to take executives directly from factory to factory, especially in the U.S., over distances of between 200 and 300 miles, has encouraged the manufacturers to either convert existing designs to civil use or to "custom design" new aircraft for this purpose, especially in the light twin-engine area.

Emerging

But a number of other major new uses for the helicopter are emerging, especially in the agricultural industry, where their flexibility is ensuring a growing employment in crop-spraying and supply dropping, while in the forestry field they are increasingly being used for logging operations and fire-control. In engineering, they are being used for such widely varied purposes as electric transmission line construction, and aerial surveying work.

These specialised uses for the helicopter have helped considerably to bring this branch of the world aerospace industry to maturity. Coupled with this has been the fact that the manufacturers have devoted considerably increased attention to improving the technology of the helicopter, with more reliable rotor-heads, more efficient composite materials, improved power-plants and airborne electronics systems, thus giving the vehicle a new capability, and broadening its range of uses, helping to bring down costs, and thus helping to improve its productivity.

At the same time, the military uses for helicopters have also been expanding, with the U.S. armed forces in particular tactically and strategically restructuring their

plans round the helicopter as a logistics, work-horse, troop carrier, and combat weapons-carrying system—the "helicopter gunship" concept. As a result, significant new military development programmes are already emerging and more are expected over the next decade.

Spearheading these developments are the U.S. helicopter manufacturers. During 1977, they collectively delivered about 950 aircraft, with a total value of about \$400m, compared with 775 aircraft, worth about \$305m, in 1976. The U.S. industry's own estimate is that in the current year it will deliver over 1,100 units, with a value of \$425m. The manufacturers say that they were not able fully to meet the demand that built up in 1977, 500D. The latter is especially prominent in company and executive markets, while the 300C is of interest in agricultural aviation and pilot training.

Battles

One of the major commercial battles that is developing is between the various types of light twin turbine-powered general-purpose helicopter, notably the 12-passenger Sikorsky S-76, and the Bell eight-passenger Model 222, both of which will become available in 1978-79. Sikorsky, employing some 7,000, is one of the biggest helicopter manufacturers in the world, with several major models. The S-61 series of commercial helicopters is widely used in many versions for offshore oil and gas support and other transport purposes. The S-65, developed as a troop and cargo transport helicopter for the Marine Corps, is also used by the USAF for search and rescue operations. A commercial version of this aircraft, the S-65C, is under consideration. The CH-53E, an upgraded version of the S-65, is being developed for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps use as a heavy-lift transport. Equipped with three engines, it is more powerful than the S-65, and has a payload capacity of over 16 tons.

The S-76 is a new all-weather helicopter designed for commercial applications from the start, including executive transport, offshore oil support, and general utility. It is claimed to have major technical advances which result in improved speed, range, payload, fuel economy, and reliability. The S-76 also has potential non-commercial operations such as search and rescue for the U.S. Coastguard, where a competition for a new helicopter is now in progress.

Orders for the S-76 already stand at well over 100 aircraft. In the military field, Sikorsky is developing a new utility tactical transport helicopter, the Black Hawk or UH-60A for the U.S. army. This will be one of the most significant helicopter programmes for the 1980s, with a stated requirement for 1,107 aircraft, representing over \$2.5bn over eight years. A variant of the Black Hawk, the SH-60B, has also been selected by the U.S. navy for the Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS), calling for a production run of more than 200 aircraft worth more than \$750m.

LAMPS missions will include anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship surveillance, Sikorsky has plans for commercial derivatives of both these aircraft, the 20-passenger S-78-20, and the 20-passenger S-78-25. Among the other big manufacturers, Bell has already done much testing and customer demonstration flying with its new model 222, and expects to have the aircraft certified for customer service by May next year. So far as other Bell models are concerned, demand

for the coming year is already high, with production of some models sold out already, including the single-turbine model 205 and the general purpose twin-turbine model 212, with deliveries of these expected to be up about 15 per cent from the 1977 level. The sales backlog is reported to be strong for the Bell light single-engine Jet Ranger series. Bell expects to deliver about 110 helicopters to the international market in 1978, about the same as last year.

Hughes Helicopters anticipates that this year it will deliver about 365 civil aircraft, compared with 334 last year, with continued emphasis on such models as the piston-powered 300C three-seat light helicopter and the larger model 500D. The latter is especially prominent in company and executive markets, while the 300C is of interest in agricultural aviation and pilot training.

The smaller U.S. companies are also reporting strong growth. Enstrom Helicopter Corporation this year plans to deliver 120 aircraft, against 102 last year, with an increase in international deliveries to about 40 per cent of total production. This company specialises in two piston-powered models, the F-28C for the utility market, and the 280C Shark for corporate use.

So far as "big lift capability" is concerned, the commercial market is limited to the 18,000-lb capability offered by the Sikorsky S-64E Skycrane, but orders are slow to emerge. Boeing-Vertol is considering a civil version of the military CH-47 Chinook of 28,000-lb lift capability for the civil market. There is a growing demand for "big lift" capabilities, especially in the offshore oil and gas industries, and in the construction and logging industries. The Commercial Chinook has already aroused the interest of British Airways Helicopters, for use in its extensive North Sea oil and gas support operations, and Boeing-Vertol has said that it could get certification for the civil Chinook some 27 months after a customer's decision to buy the aircraft, thus launching the programme. Boeing is believed to feel that it could sell at least six commercial Chinooks a year for North Sea oil operations alone, every year through to 1990, with many other sales to operators in the "utilities" field.

Captured

In Western Europe, four manufacturers dominate the scene — Westland of the UK, Aérospatiale of France, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of Germany, and Agusta of Italy. These four companies have already captured substantial shares of world helicopter business, especially with the collaborative programmes between Westland and Aérospatiale on such aircraft as the Lynx multi-role helicopter, the Gazelle liaison aircraft, and the bigger Puma tactical transport helicopter. These three aircraft have been developed under the long-standing Anglo-French helicopter package, through which over 1,500 aircraft have now been built, of which over half have been exported outside the UK and France.

Other major collaborative helicopter ventures are now being planned. The Defence Ministers of the UK, West Germany, France and Italy recently signed a Declaration of Principles for the future development of several new types of helicopter for service from the mid to late 1980s, including a new anti-tank helicopter, a new tactical transport helicopter and a bigger replacement for the Sea King helicopter. Each of the four main European companies has ideas for aircraft in one or other of these areas, and they have collectively been studying the possibilities of collaboration on an industrial basis on one or more of these new types. At this stage, following the Defence Ministers' agreement, the aim is for the Chiefs of Staff of the four countries, in conjunction with the helicopter industries to produce a report on the coordination of requirements and timescales, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Defence Ministers in early 1979. From that meeting, it is hoped that some decisions will emerge that will crystallise much of the current thinking into firm industrial design and development programmes.

Replacement

Already, however, the companies themselves have begun to move in these directions. Westland is now working on the WG-34, intended to be a Sea King replacement, with international collaboration in its development firmly in mind. Little information is available about this prospective aircraft as yet, but it is expected to be roughly of the Sea King size and weight, and will carry advanced electronics for anti-submarine warfare as well as having a major search and rescue role. It is expected that it will also be suitable as a civil transport helicopter. The planned date of entry into service is 1988.

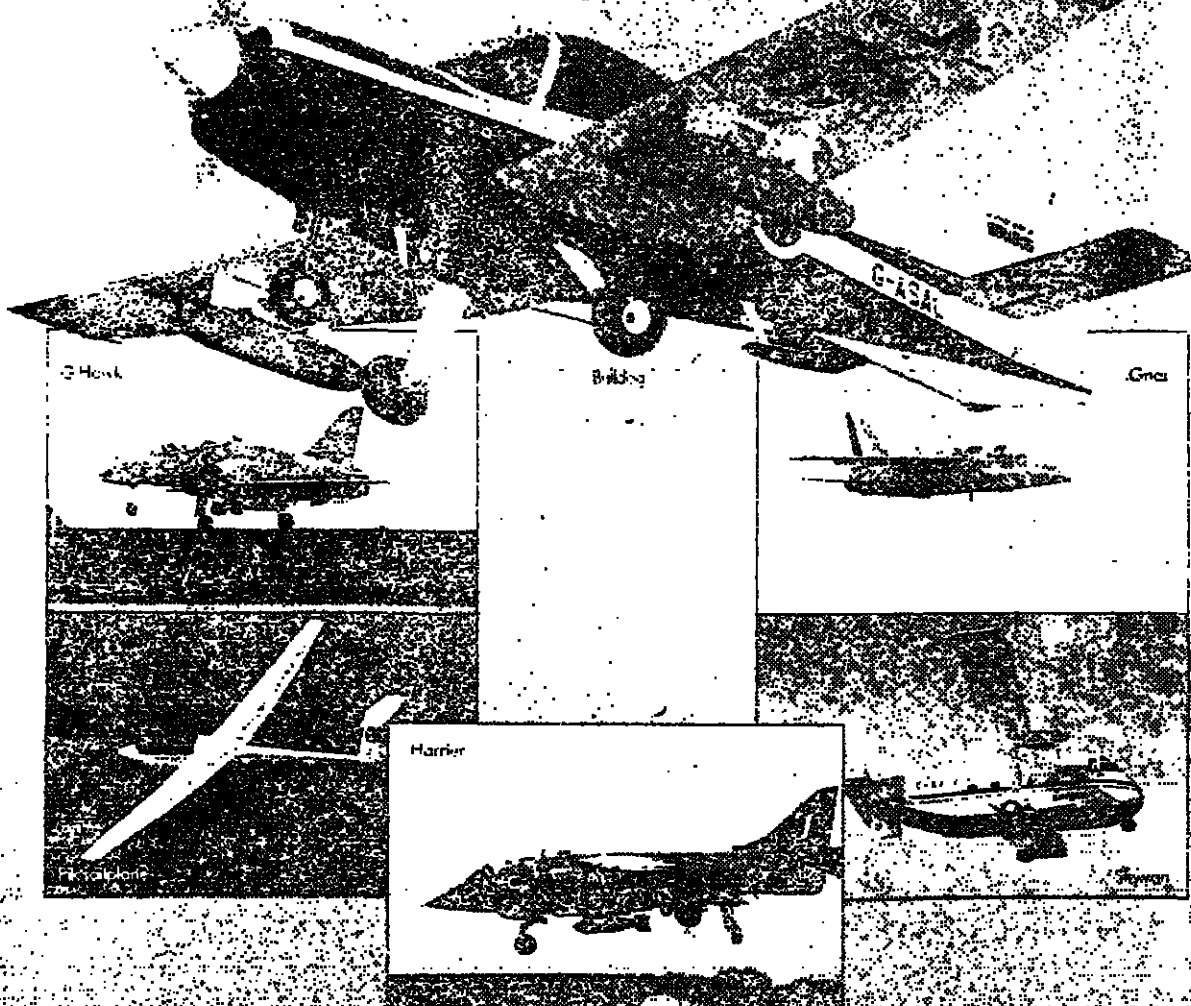
As to current programmes, Westland's forecasts are that future sales of Sea King and Commando helicopters will sustain the company's present production capability of 1½ to 2 aircraft a month for some time to come, with follow-on orders from Sea King customers likely. The company is also confident of more sales for the Lynx multi-role helicopter, especially of the Navy Lynx, with interest being shown in Spain as well as the Middle East.

Out of total orders for the Sea King to date of 183 aircraft, over 150 have been delivered, while of 32 Commandos ordered 23 have been delivered. Of Lynx orders for over 280 aircraft, over 65 have been delivered, while in the joint Anglo-French Gazelle programme 800 aircraft have been delivered out of more than 900 on order, while close to 600 Pumas have also been delivered out of 700 ordered.

In the meantime, a number of other new helicopter developments are under way in Europe. France and West Germany are jointly developing their own PAH-3 armed anti-tank helicopter, between Aérospatiale and MBB. Aérospatiale, now rapidly emerging as one of the world's major civil helicopter manufacturers, is working already on the Super Puma, a higher performance derivative of the existing Puma developed under the Anglo-French package, and also on a new version of the twin-engine, 10-passenger SA-350 Dauphin-2, which it intends to submit to the current competition in the U.S. to find a helicopter for the Coast Guard Service. In Western Germany, MBB is working with Kawasaki of Japan on the BK-117, an eight- to 12-seat multi-purpose light helicopter.

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Space programmes switch emphasis

OVER THE past few years, following the completion of the most spectacular space mission yet—the Apollo programme involving the landing of several two-man missions on the Moon and their safe return to Earth—the emphasis in space activities has changed.

Now, with funds much tighter than in the past, the objective is to get the best value for every space dollar spent, and more and more unmanned satellites are being launched for a wide variety of both scientific and "applications" technology missions. The latter are increasingly becoming dominant, as the pressures increase on governments to ensure practical, usable returns from space. The list of unmanned satellites grows longer virtually daily—for telecommunications, weather forecasting and "earth resources monitoring" (ranging from mineral survey to the identification and tracking of fish shoals), quite apart from those less-publicised satellites launched for defence purposes that include the surveillance of each other's territory by both the U.S. and the Soviet Union and even "hunter-killer" satellites designed to seek out and if necessary neutralise or destroy satellites being used for military purposes by the other side.

As at December 31, 1977, the total number of spacecraft of various kinds (mostly satellites) launched from Earth had reached 2,146, of which 837 were of U.S. origin and 1,211 of Soviet origin. Included in this total were no less than 69 Lunar missions (36 U.S. and 33 Soviet Union), mostly unmanned but including the U.S. Apollo series of manned Lunar landing spacecraft. Deep-space planetary probes totalled 40, of which the U.S. had logged 13 and the Soviet Union 27.

Of the total spacecraft launched, the number still in focused upon manned "near-orbit" at the end of 1977 Earth orbiting "space laboratories." The U.S., for example, has been studying the possibility of reactivating its orbit, but there were still 16

craft in Lunar orbit and 34 in Solar or planetary orbit. So far as manned spaceflight is concerned, by the end of 1977 the total of man-hours spent in space had reached 38,144.4, with the U.S. accounting for 22,278.4 and the Soviet Union for 15,866, although both countries had achieved the same number of flights at 31 each.

Probes

The growing emphasis upon deriving the greatest possible practical benefits from space does not mean that interplanetary exploration has been dismissed as being of no value. Far from it, for the current budgets of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration includes funds for several "deep space probes," including the Pioneer spacecraft en route to Saturn, and continuation of the current Voyager mission in which two spacecraft have been despatched already on "fly-by" missions to both Jupiter and Saturn. As of July 1, this year, Voyager 1, launched on September 5 last year, had flown close to 885m miles through space, and was due to approach Jupiter early next March, while Voyager 2, launched on August 20 last year, had flown over 709m miles and was due to close on Jupiter early next July. Both satellites, having photographed the face of Jupiter, are then due to swing on in space for an encounter with Saturn in late 1980 and mid-1981 respectively.

But unmanned interplanetary "deep space" probes will continue to be the exceptions, as the emphasis upon utilising the "near frontiers" of space for the long-term benefit of mankind continues to grow. In addition to the development of specific satellites for a wide variety of uses, renewed interest is being launched, the number still in focused upon manned "near-orbit" at the end of 1977 Earth orbiting "space laboratories." The U.S., for example, has been studying the possibility of reactivating its orbit, but there were still 16

while recently the Soviet Union has been making extensive use of its Salyut 6 space station.

Among other new developments in space, now under serious study in the U.S. is a plan for launching massive satellite/space station complexes that would collect electrical energy from the sun by means of vast "solar arrays"—blocks of panels many miles square—for transmission to Earth by microwave beams. Initial studies have been funded by Congress—\$25m is being spent in 1978-79—but any ultimate ventures of this kind would clearly cost many billions of dollars, take years to complete, and would become major international "space spectacles" eclipsing even the manned Moon landings in significance and long-term importance for mankind.

One of the most significant of the current unmanned applications technology satellites in the long term is the European Orbital Test Satellite (OTS), the second of which was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral last May, to replace the first OTS which was destroyed last September when its U.S. launcher exploded shortly after lift-off. The OTS-2 is intended as a precursor of operational telecommunications and other satellites for the future. In particular, it is intended to pave the way for the operational European Communications Satellite (ECS) system, in which four operational satellites will be launched in the 1980s. A feature of the OTS-2, however, is that it is in effect a "bus" type of satellite—meaning that it involves a basic design of "space vehicle" which will be useful for carrying a wide variety of payloads on different missions for many years to come.

The future European Communications Satellite (ECS) programme itself is scheduled to start operating in 1981. It will be used by the members of the Conference Européenne des Administrations des Postes et des Télécommunications (CEPT) to complement the existing land-

based telecommunications networks. In addition to carrying a portion of existing intra-European telephone traffic, it will provide an improved means of exchanging television programmes between the members of the European Broadcasting Union. The ECS system will be owned and managed by Eutelsat, an organisation set up by the European post and telecommunications administrations. The European Space Agency itself is expected to supply, launch and maintain in orbit the satellites required by Eutelsat—it has already approved production of two satellites—while individual countries' own post and telecommunications organisations will be responsible for the construction and operation of their respective earth stations.

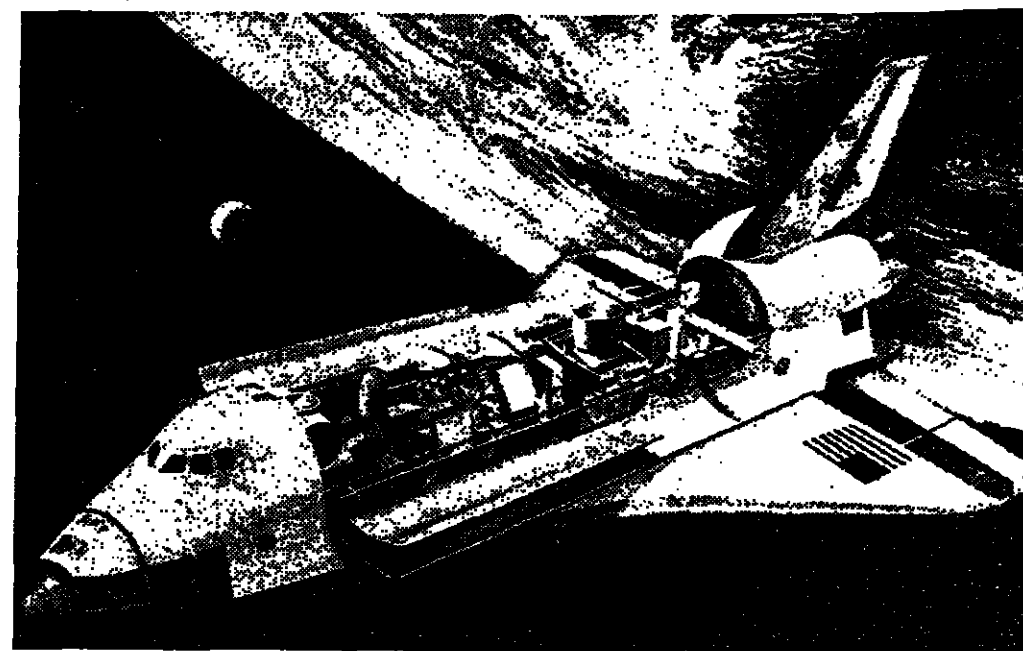
Goal

But while the launching of the OTS-2 is a major step towards the goal of a European regional communications satellite system, based on the ECS programme, the ultimate goal in Europe is to win a share of what is expected to be growing market for regional satellite systems throughout the world in the years ahead. The ability to offer complete "packages" of satellite capability, ranging from the design, development and manufacture of the space vehicles through to the provision of ground stations and the related infrastructure that gears them into individual countries' own local telephone and TV networks, will yield substantial business in the years ahead. Europe is determined to win a share of this and not leave it to be won by the U.S. make Europe independently capable of launching satellites throughout the rest of this century. It represents one of Europe's most important space programmes this decade. The decision to go ahead with Ariane was taken in 1973, at the same time that it was decided to build the Spacelab, the manned orbital laboratory which will be attack on world markets.

In addition to telecommunications, weather forecasting, and earth resources monitoring functions, the role of the geostationary satellite (that is, a satellite in a fixed position above the earth's surface) can be extended into other areas. Studies now in progress in Europe include the possibility of extensive data transmission at high speeds, for example between computer centres or databanks, or the transmission of information to be printed, such as documents or newspapers. Direct satellite broadcasting—that is, the transmission from satellites straight into TV sets in people's homes—is another area under study. Shipborne receiving stations are already making possible the direct communication via satellite with ships at sea (through the already functioning U.S. Marisat system and the forthcoming European Marisat system). Today, more than 125 ships and offshore facilities are now equipped with mobile terminals to provide communications via the Marisat system.

Because of the current emphasis on unmanned satellites for a wide variety of technological and commercial applications, considerable significance attaches to the methods of launching such satellites in the future. This in turn means that increasing attention is being devoted to the two techniques now under development—the European Space Agency's Ariane rocket launcher system, and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space Shuttle reusable Space Transport System.

The object of Ariane is to make Europe independently capable of launching satellites throughout the rest of this century. It represents one of Europe's most important space programmes this decade. The decision to go ahead with Ariane was taken in 1973, at the same time that it was decided to build the Spacelab, the manned orbital laboratory which will be attack on world markets.



An artist's impression of the U.S. Space Shuttle—a programme for the development of a re-usable "Space Transport System" now under way in the U.S. The manned Orbiter vehicle shown here, would be boosted into orbit carrying a crew which would live and work in space for several days at a time. In this picture, the Orbiter is shown carrying the Spacelab manned orbital workshop in its cargo bay—Europe's contribution to the Space Shuttle programme.

U.S. Space Shuttle, and the Marisat maritime satellite. The UK has only a small stake (about 2.47 per cent) in the Ariane, the bulk of the cash (and the work) involved in its development (Fr\$3,400m including a 20 per cent contingency allowance) being subscribed by France (nearly 64 per cent), with West Germany the second largest contributor at just over 20 per cent, the rest coming from Belgium, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The Ariane is a conventional rocket launcher—that is, the satellites are mounted aboard the launcher and thus conveyed into orbit, whereas the Space Shuttle will include a manned "Orbiter" vehicle that itself will go into orbit and be the satellite carrier.

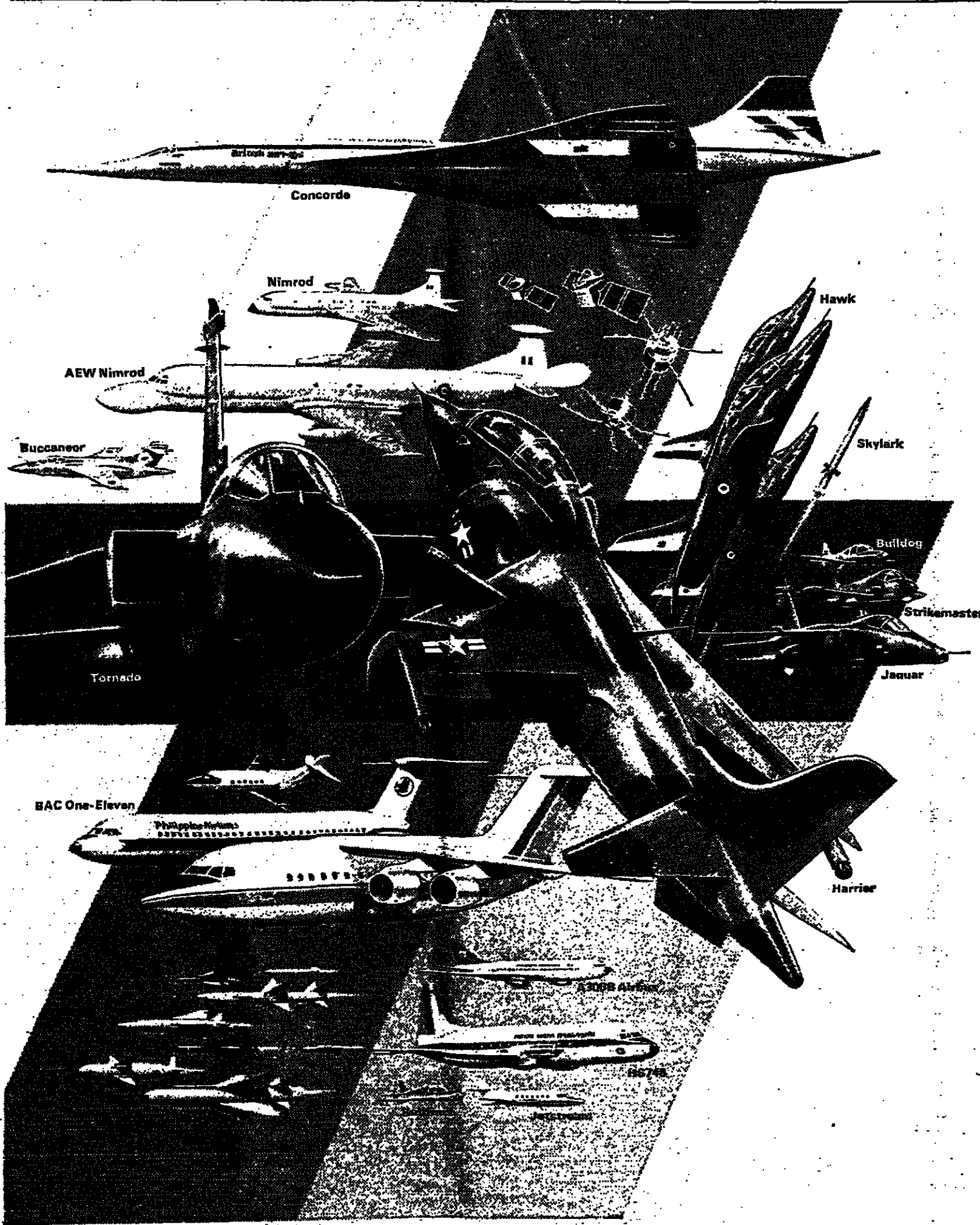
The first full flight test of Ariane is set for mid-1979, with the first fully operational Ariane becoming available the following year. The ESA has already approved the production of five operational Arianes. Three of these are intended for and will be financed by the following ESA programmes: the scientific satellite Exosat (in early 1981), the Marisat-B maritime satellite (mid-1981), and the first ECS satellite (end-1981). One launcher is intended for the French Earth observa-

tion station, SPOT, and will be paid for by France, and the fifth, the Earth's atmosphere by its specially constructed runway at Cape Kennedy, Florida, where it will land rather like an ordinary large aircraft, and then itself be refurbished for further missions in space.

The Orbiter will have a large "cargo bay" into which will be stowed satellites for launching while on some occasions it will carry the European Spacelab, a manned "orbital workshop" in which a small crew will be able to live and work at various tasks in space. The objective of the Space Shuttle is to try to reduce the costs of space missions, particularly the cost of launching the increasing numbers of satellites, and to optimise on the technology already acquired over more than a decade of manned and unmanned development in space research. While the U.S. has said that the Space Shuttle will be available to other countries to launch their satellites, there have been fears that the cost per launch might be pitched too high, or even that the U.S. might effectively come to dominate Western world space-launch technology. It is for this reason primarily that the Europeans have opted to develop their own alternative launcher system, the Ariane.

The U.S. Space Shuttle represents a radical departure from the conventional method of launching unmanned payloads into space, in that a large rocket launcher, called a Booster, will inject into orbit a specially built vehicle, called an Orbiter, that in itself will be a manned spacecraft, capable of remaining in space for long periods of time. During those periods the small crew will be able to undertake a wide variety of missions, from launching satellites into prescribed orbits, rescuing and even repairing satellites already in orbit, and conducting a wide variety of research experiments and practical activities in near-Earth orbit. The Booster, having injected the Orbiter into its prescribed orbit, will fall back to Earth, splashing down into the sea for recovery and refurbishing for future use. The Orbiter itself, its mission com-

M.D.



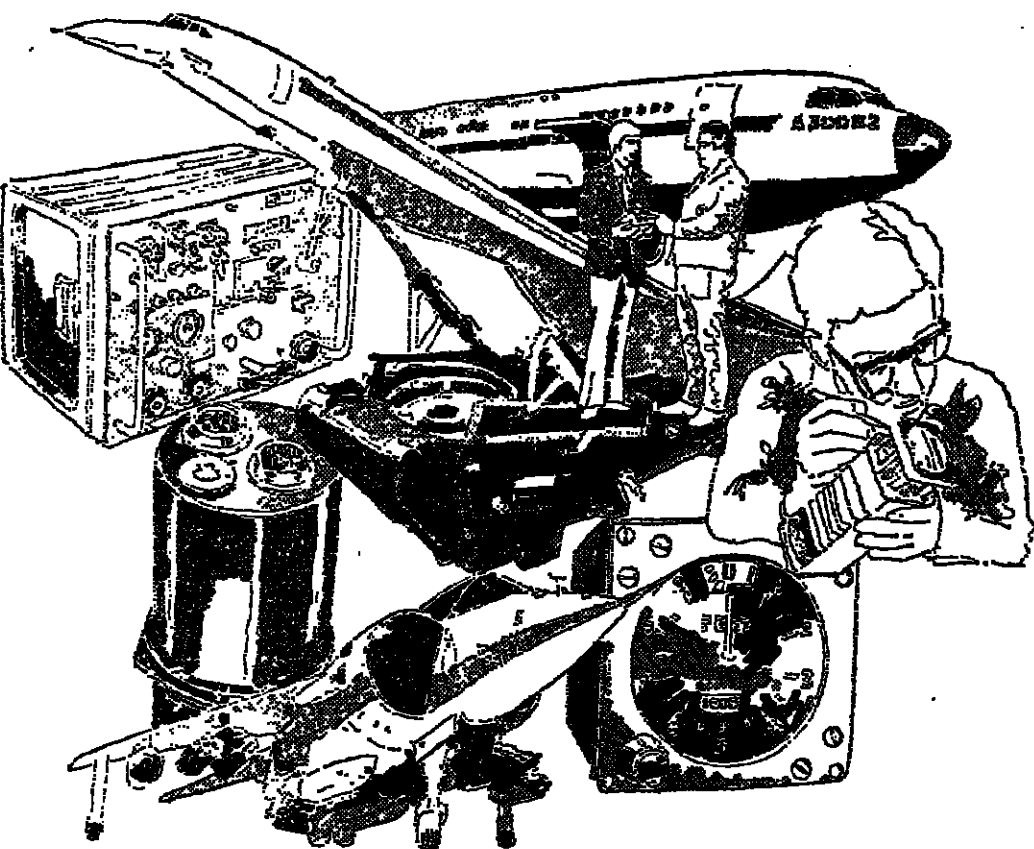
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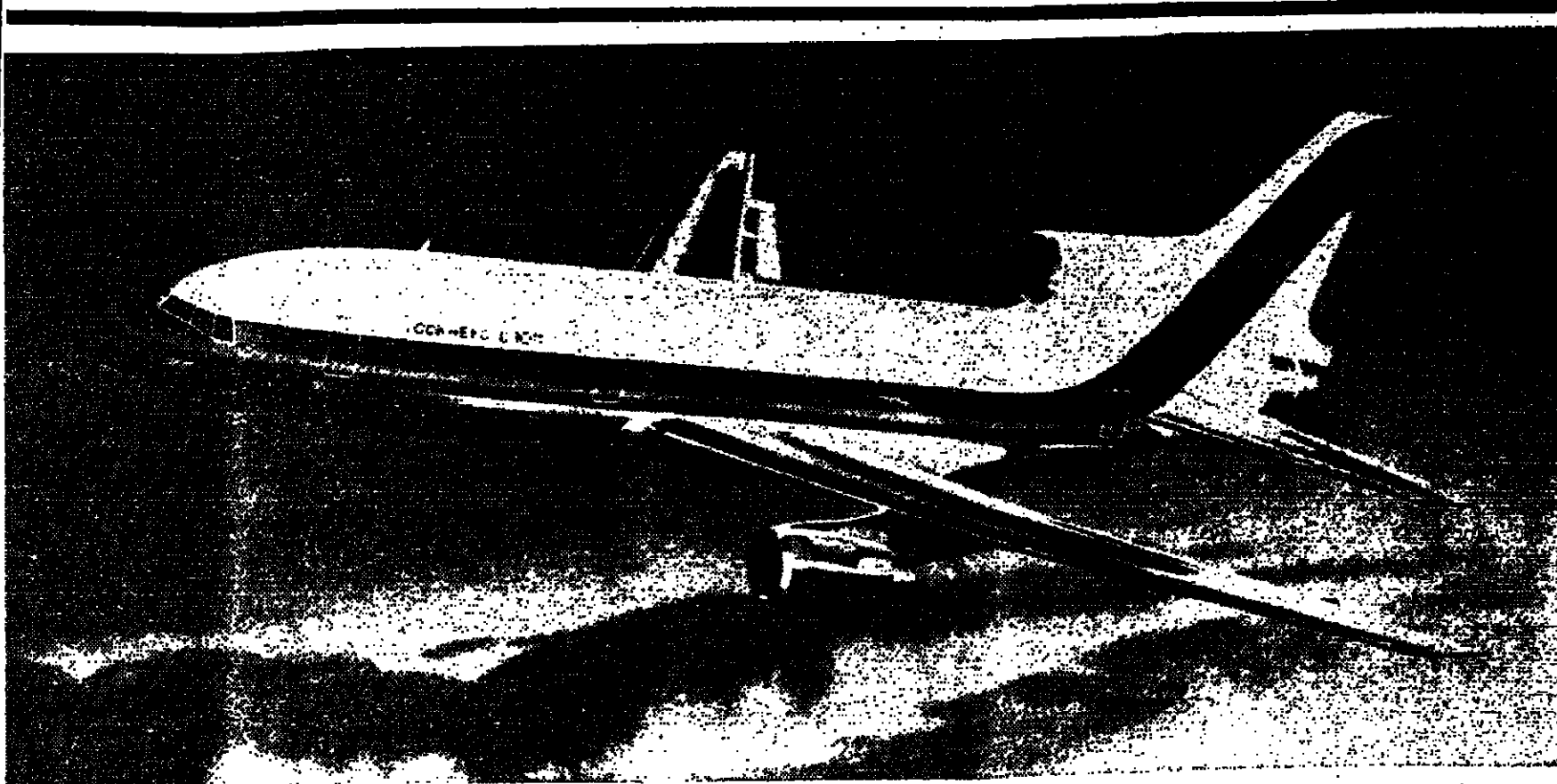
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The revolution in air transport

THE WORLD'S scheduled air-traffic pacemaker route for much of what happens throughout the rest of the world airline industry, came last autumn, when after a long battle, Laker Air-ways, headed by the ebullient Sir Freddie Laker, was finally able to start its cheap-fare Skytrain, no-frills, walk-on, walk-off service between London and New York. In this context, it is worth remembering that for all its current vigour in promoting cheaper fares, the U.S. Government for years deliberately blocked Laker's plans for Skytrain, and they were only finally approved under the influence of Alfred Kahn, the newly-appointed consumerist chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, with enthusiastic support from President Carter himself.

The revolution has been sparked off by the intensifying Governmental pressures in many of the major air transport generating areas of the world, but most notably in Western Europe and the U.S. in favour of much cheaper fares. While it would be wrong to argue that the scheduled airline industry is not, and has not, been in favour of cheaper fares—it has pioneered a number of major developments in this area over the past thirty years—it is true that it has always preferred to move cautiously, and to introduce those cheaper fares at a pace of its own choosing, with the result that it has sometimes been slower to respond to the development of market trends than some governments, such as the U.S., have wanted to see.

The breakthrough in the introduction of cheap fares, especially on the North Atlantic air route, for long regarded as

towards cheaper fares has been too rapid, and that rather than generating new traffic the cheap rates may have been drawing travellers away from higher classes of fare, such as economy class and even perhaps Advanced Purchase Excursion rates. Most of the scheduled airlines on the North Atlantic have argued that they would like to wait at least until this summer season is over before making any judgment on the ultra-cheap fares experiment of recent months.

Thus, a major Anglo-U.S. Governmental meeting is due to be held in October, at which a post-mortem on the past summer on the North Atlantic will be held. If experience has shown that the cheap fares have in fact generated traffic without diluting revenues and reducing or eliminating profits, then the way is likely to be clear for some consolidation or even extension of such rates through the coming winter and into next spring and summer. If, however, as some airlines' frankly, still believe, the results have not been as beneficial financially as had been hoped (some charter airlines are believed to have been badly hit), the outburst of consumerist fervour that marked the beginning of the summer may well have to be toned down in favour of a more rational approach.

Along with this move towards cheaper fares on the North Atlantic, there has also been a move towards cut-price air travel domestically in the U.S., and this past summer virtually every airline flying on domestic routes there has been carrying record traffic, with load factors rising to heights undreamt of even a year ago.

Command

This has also been in large measure due to the efforts of Mr. Kahn, who has taken firm command of the CAB and has shown that he intends to use it as an instrument to benefit the consumer rather more than the airlines. The wide-ranging nature of the cheap fares that his efforts have produced on U.S. domestic air services over the past summer have resulted in peak loads—but this time, despite earlier gloomy forecasts by the airline, they have been matched with good profits. This would appear to show that, so far as internal U.S. air services are concerned, the move to cheap fares in the U.S. has been a success, and that they have generated sufficient new traffic to enable the airlines to improve their load factors and make money. Once again, however, many of the airlines concerned are tending to be cautious, and to refrain from comment until the summer season's results can be measured. But if, as now, seems likely, airlines really have benefited financially from the widespread introduction of cheap fares, not only will Mr. Kahn's consumerist doctrines have been vindicated, but also they will be more widely acceptable outside the U.S.

Coupled with this continuing move towards cheaper fares, have been the measures to get rid of many of the rigid rules and regulations which have characterised the scheduled airlines' body, the International Air Transport Association, for many years. Only last November, at the IATA annual meeting in Madrid, Mr. Knut Hammar-skjöld, the director-general of the Association, recognised the signs that were emerging and warned the delegates that they would have to move quickly if they were not to be overtaken by events and by the

reactions of governments to those events—in particular, the reactions of the U.S. Government, which increasingly over recent years had shown itself hostile to the basic tenets of LATA, and to the principle of having fares in major "tariff conferences."

As a result of Mr. Hammar-skjöld's warning, the IATA set up a small five-member task force to analyse the problem and to propose solutions. This in turn resulted in the special general meeting of the Association in Montreal this summer.

At that meeting, the delegates approved by a show of hands the most far-reaching changes in the Association's methods of operation since it was first established in 1944. Basically, the programme of reforms will create two new levels of membership of the IATA. One level will be mandatory, dealing with all the many legal, financial, technical and safety matters that, in fact, account for up to 80 per cent of the work of the Association. Any airline joining it, will be obliged to participate fully in these affairs, for they are crucial to the smooth functioning of the world scheduled air transport system. They include, for example, such things as standardisation of ticketing and baggage handling procedures, the handling of air cargo, air traffic control techniques and other safety matters, legal affairs and most significantly of all, participation in the "clearing house" through which virtually all inter-airline financial transactions are processed, amounting to several thousand million dollars worth of business every year. These are the "bread and butter," day-to-day activities of the Association, which are essential to the whole airline business and for which, if IATA were to collapse, governments would be hard put to find alternatives.

The second planned new category of membership is more complex in its operation. Broadly, it will give to those airlines who are members of the Association the right to decide whether or not they wish to participate in the complex, time-consuming business of fixing fares and cargo rates through what are known as "tariff conferences." Hitherto, the Association's rules have required that all its members must participate in all its affairs, including fares-fixing. Now, it is being proposed that airlines at each end of a given route—say the North Atlantic between the UK and the U.S.—need not belong to the relevant tariff conference, but can, if they wish, opt out, and fix fares for that route by mutual consent, subject only to the approval of their governments.

Individual airlines, in fact, will thus get the right to introduce new, "innovative" fares between their respective countries without recourse to the previous cumbersome machinery of the IATA tariff conferences. This, it is felt, could make it possible for the major airlines on any route to respond more quickly to the rapidly changing circumstances of the "market-place," without having to run the gauntlet of fares conferences at which, for small airlines with no direct interest in a given route might otherwise be able to block any proposals the bigger airlines make.

In effect, this seems to be only giving recognition to what has become a de facto situation, where previous IATA fares

plans have frequently been vetoed by individual airlines or by governments—and again especially the U.S. Government—with direct inter-governmental fares policies being negotiated and introduced instead. It could, if adopted, mean that in future some airlines may revert to arranging their own fares policies among themselves, instead of having governments do it for them.

Rules

Apart from the possibility of simplifying fares-making policies, the Montreal meeting opened the possibility of competition in other directions, and especially in the quality of service to passengers aboard flights. Hitherto, the IATA rules have laid down the precise quality and quantity of meals in economy-class sections, together with scales of charges for drinks and in-flight entertainment, while also fixing the overall level of comfort, for example, by determining the "seat pitch"—the distance between the top of one seat and that behind it. This has meant that on most major air routes, airlines often have been flying the same equipment, charging the same fares and offering the same quality of meals, with drinks and in-flight entertainment at the same prices. The only areas left in which they have been able to compete have been the somewhat ephemeral one of "personal service." Now, it is hoped that the airlines will be able to compete more directly on a more effective basis, with the passengers able to shop around for the best prices and quality of service they can get.

But the big question still to be resolved is how far all these reforms in favour of fares-fixing and the quality of service will get. The powerful IATA Executive Committee, since the Montreal meeting, has been working out the details of the proposed changes, and is due to consider them at its next meeting in mid-September. It is probable, therefore, that by the time the IATA airlines go to their next full annual meeting in November in Geneva, they will have a clearer indication of how these reforms are going to be introduced. It must also be borne in mind that the governments of all the airlines concerned have yet to approve the changes in detail, and that there are some airlines, and governments, who are not in favour of the changes as proposed in Montreal. It is possible that by the time the Executive Committee meets in mid-September, some of the Montreal decisions may have been substantially modified.

But what is clear from all this is that the world airline industry is undergoing rapid change, and that by the end of 1978 it will not be the same as it was at the beginning of the year. The impact of cheap fares on many world air routes, coupled with both an increasing rate of traffic growth if world economic conditions continue to improve, and the internal changes that these factors, together with more radical governmental attitudes to civil aviation, have forced upon the airline industry, will all ensure that the industry is being set upon a new course. The wind of change has been blowing throughout 1978 in the boardrooms of the world's major airlines, and the dust that it has raised will take some considerable time to settle.

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AEROSPACE IX



Boredom and improvised sleeping arrangements reflect the trials of thousands of holidaymakers in Britain's airport lounges during the long flight delays caused this summer by the go-slow by French and Spanish air traffic controllers.

Events overtake UK airports strategy

THE GOVERNMENT strategy met by one of three options. There could be a major development at Stansted, conversion of an existing military airport which could be developed as a civil airport, or a new airport could be constructed.

The last official statement on airport plans, published by the Government in its White Paper on Airports Policy in February, said extra capacity in the South East to meet rising demand should be concentrated on fewer airports. The national airports could be met by expanding existing airports. There would be no need for—or possibility of—a new airport until then.

The plans were based on short and long term estimates of the likely demand from air travellers and of the capacity which should be made available. In the short term, up to 1990, the Government strategy envisaged four ways of providing the extra capacity in the South East.

First, the British Airports Authority's proposals for a fourth terminal at Heathrow Airport, London to raise capacity by 8m to 38m passengers a year should be examined at a Public Inquiry. This is now sitting and sifting evidence from the BAA, environmentalists and local lobby groups. The White Paper said there should be no fifth terminal at Heathrow.

Proposals

Second, the Paper called for the BAA to bring forward proposals for a second terminal at Gatwick Airport, Surrey, to raise capacity from 16m to 25m passengers a year. There should be no second runway there.

Third, extra capacity to 1990 could be provided by a limited development at Stansted Airport, Essex, boosting the airport's capacity from 1m to 4m passengers a year. The BAA was urged to bring forward these limited plans for development of the airport.

The White Paper recommended that Luton Airport, which is owned and operated by the local authority, should have a maximum passenger handling capability of 5m passengers a year.

These developments, if carried out in a planned and progressive way would give the four London airports a total capacity of about 72m passengers a year. This compared with a total forecast demand in 1990 of between 66m and 89m passengers. The Government suggested that the uncertainties at the higher end of this range were such that the proposals would be sufficient to accommodate the more likely air traffic growth in the London area throughout the 1980s.

In the longer term, after 1990, the Government accepted that there was a likely need for additional capacity. This could be

met by one of three options. There could be a major development at Stansted, conversion of an existing military airport which could be developed as a civil airport, or a new airport could be constructed.

Outside the London and south-east area there was now excess capacity. The Government proposed that services should be concentrated on fewer airports. The national airports could be met by expanding existing airports. There would be no need for—or possibility of—a new airport until then.

At the bottom of the structure, and essentially outside the demands of most air travellers, would be the general aviation airports. These would be concerned with business, recreational and flying training traffic.

These organisational changes are certain to affect the running of all of Britain's airports. But for the air traveller, the airlines and the airport authorities in the South East, the major issue is that of providing extra capacity to match the forecast growth in air traffic to the end of the century.

At Heathrow Airport alone, growth in passenger traffic so far this year has outstripped the 3 to 5 per cent increase forecast last year. The British Airports Authority said it is now running at an annual growth rate of 8 per cent, a rate of increase likely to continue at least for the foreseeable future.

In this scenario only the Government appears to have carried out in a planned and progressive way would give the four London airports a total capacity of about 72m passengers a year. This compared with a total forecast demand in 1990 of between 66m and 89m passengers. The Government suggested that the uncertainties at the higher end of this range were such that the proposals would be sufficient to accommodate the more likely air traffic growth in the London area throughout the 1980s.

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that delays to the expansion programme, including particularly the fourth terminal at Heathrow (likely to cost over £33m), would mean the need for a more rapid increase in the transfer of flights from Heathrow to Gatwick.

All "whole-charter" flights now have to use Gatwick, and the BAA would also like to see more scheduled flights using the airport.

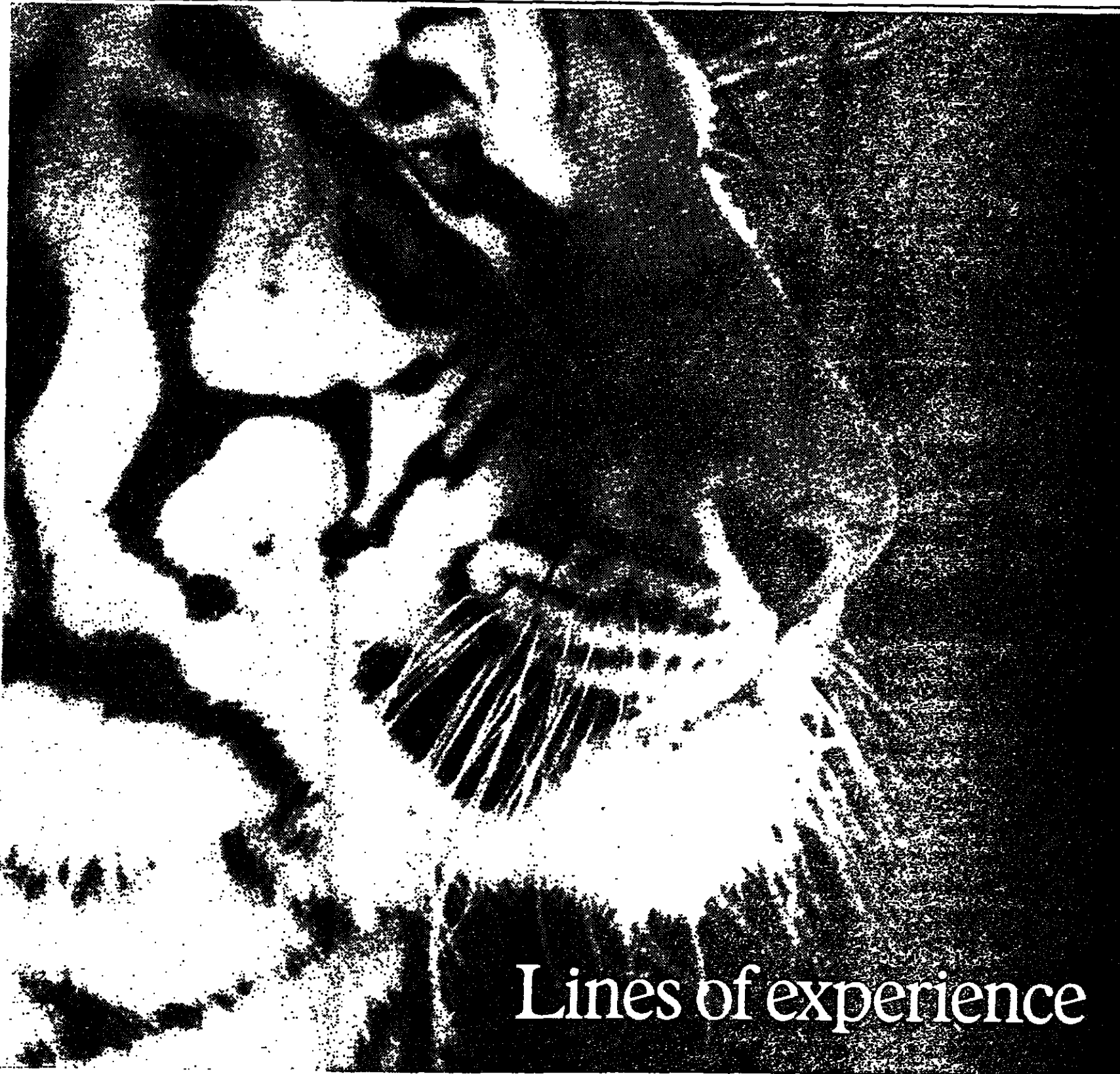
The UK Government, after attempts at persuasion, has now directed Iberia of Spain and TAP of Portugal to move to Gatwick — a decision that is inevitably having political repercussions — but the UK intends to persist with this policy, and discussions have also been held with the Canadians, with the Scandinavians perhaps next on the list.

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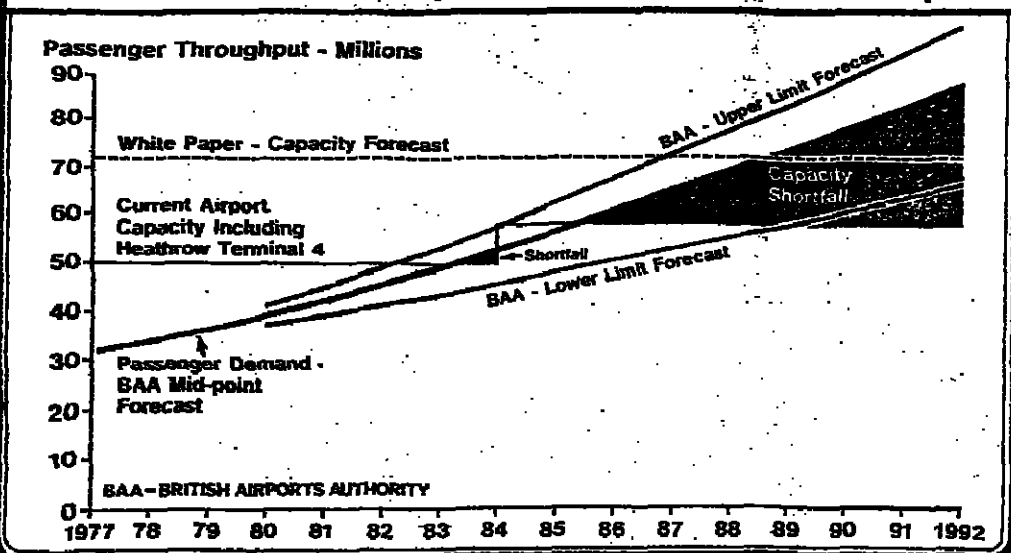
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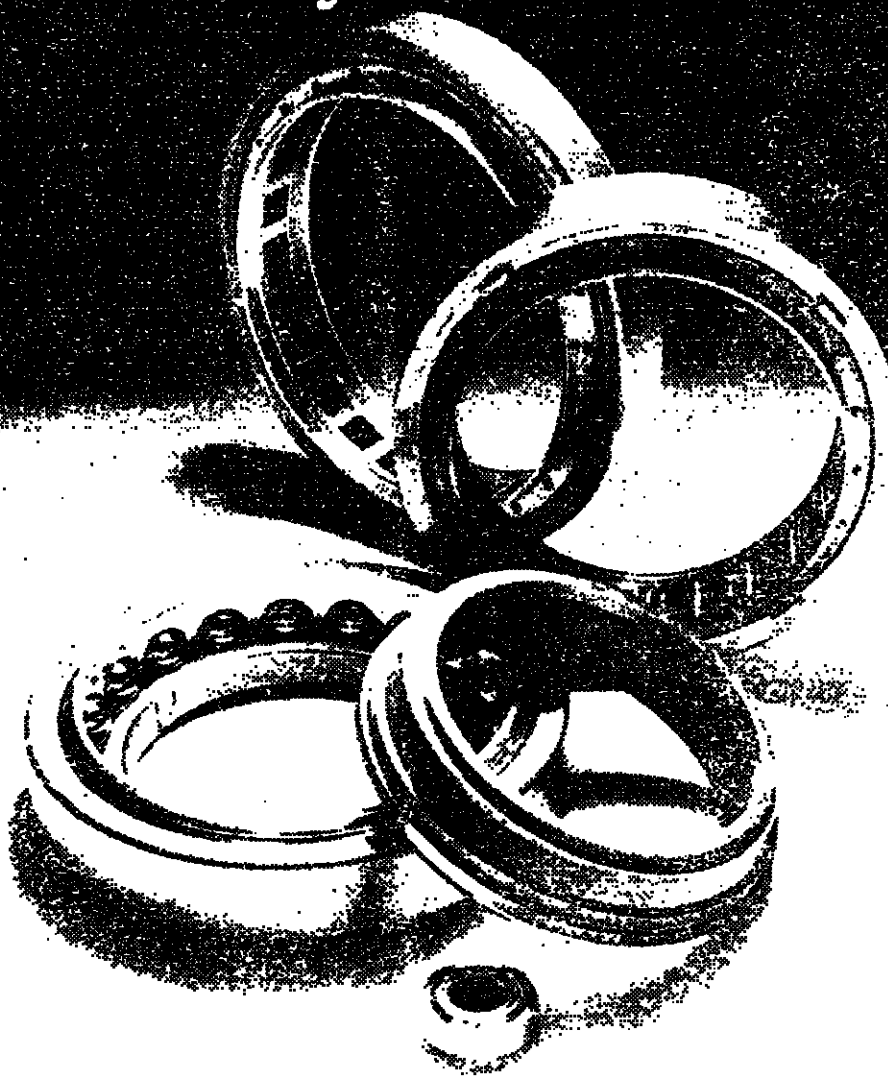
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AEROSPACE X

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Advances in airborne avionics

ONE OF the most significant developments in the world aerospace industry over the past decade has been the rapid growth of the airborne equipment sector, with particular emphasis on avionics (aviation electronics).

In many cases the advances in electronic aids have been so great and the potential benefits so cost-effective that aircraft manufacturers have been able to update, and almost redesign from the inside, well-established aircraft. This has extended the life of the aircraft and led to the development of derivatives, essentially similar in external appearance but housing radical innovations in the avionics equipment.

The manufacturers of avionics components, systems and ancillary equipment in particular find major air displays like the forthcoming Farnborough display next week a valuable show-case for their wares, and in many instances they secure substantial business either directly because of what is exhibited there or as a result of the new contacts with foreign purchasers that they make during the show. Consequently, more than in any other area of aerospace, the avionics and equipment companies use the Farnborough (and Paris) air shows as launching platforms for new products, and this year's Farnborough display is no exception, with a vast number of new developments likely to be seen.

With equipment and systems of all kinds already effectively representing up to as much as one-third of the value of a complex modern aircraft (and even more in the case of some of the more advanced military aircraft), this side of the world's aerospace industry has expanded rapidly in recent years, and is becoming of increasing importance as the emphasis grows in aviation on such things as automatic landing equipment, new navigational aids, collision-avoidance and storm-warning systems, and improved communications techniques.

During the first six months of this year, the avionics and equipment manufacturers

achieved record exports, with instrument exports amounting to over £28m and radio, navigation and radar aids nearly £8.5m.

In the general aviation sector, embracing all types of aircraft from business jets to light single-engine sports models, among the primary criteria governing choice of new equipment, Miniaturisation of electronic circuits for airborne equipment has done a great deal to increase the amount of disposable space in small, fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. This has opened the way for even the smallest aircraft to be fitted with relatively advanced avionics.

Some of the most dramatic advances in recent years have taken place in the field of radar. Equipment can vary from the very simple to expensive and complex items offering up-to-the-minute features, including colour radar screen indicators even for light aircraft. A comprehensive system designed by the U.S. Bendix Corporation, the BX-2000, costs up to \$80,000 including navigation displays.

Miniaturisation of recent equipment is displayed well in the new lightweight weather radar system developed by RCA. The antennae and much of the electronics for the company's Weather-Scout 1 system is tailor-made to fit inside the leading edge of the wing of small aircraft, giving warnings of nearby storms and thunder clouds without the penalty of a high drag-inducing radar pod. The Weather Scout 2, launched this summer at less than £3,000, is one of the cheapest conventional radar sets yet offered.

Communications equipment is almost essential for all types of small general aviation aircraft. The major manufacturers in the U.S., and GEC-Marconi in Britain.

Range and bearing information is displayed in digital form in units now on the market. Some models provide additional facilities including vertical as well as area navigation. Digital distance measuring equipment is also available now at a fraction of the cost of earlier equipment.

Precise position-fixing equipment can be bought for light aircraft use for less than £2,000 and some manufacturers believe that this price will fall further in the years ahead as demand rises and as design and production techniques take advantage of new advances in electronics.

To date, the growing use of weather radar has been the only application of cathode ray tubes in light aircraft. But these miniature television tubes can combine a variety of indicator functions, including weather information, navigation data and a range of cockpit and engine performance data. Moves to develop equipment with this range of versatility is well under way, particularly in the U.S., where Bendix and RCA lead the field.

In Britain as well as the U.S., work is progressing on light aircraft developments of airframe autopilots. The Smiths Industries' SEP.10 is a new digital/analog computer-based system with many character-

istics common to airframe installations. Sperry has a similar system which is already being fitted to the larger business jets. The Smiths equipment was developed as a joint venture with the Department of Industry and is now being tested on a British Aerospace Jetstream turboprop aircraft operated by Cranfield College of Technology, Bedfordshire.

Additional flight test work will be done on the British Aerospace HS 748, which will carry the first production SEP.10 autopilots.

Executive jets are also the greatest users in the general aviation field of expensive inertial navigation systems. With these systems costing more than some light aircraft, at over £50,000, there is little demand for such systems. Similarly, the lighter aircraft have little requirement for the growing range of complex fuel management systems, performance computers and ground-proximity warning systems, although the latter could be

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Flying as a sport

THERE CAN be no doubt about the popularity of leisure flying when as many as 50,000 enthusiasts each year take to the air for fun. Many more get pleasure from watching others fly in powered light aircraft, as gliders, under hang gliders or hot air or helium balloons.

Powered private flight is the most expensive of the aerial options open to the would-be leisure flyer. It is also the most time-consuming in hours of flight necessary to obtain a licence but it can give a far greater degree of freedom than other forms — although exponents of unpiloted flight would probably disagree.

Nevertheless, whatever the charms of ballooning, hang gliding or gliding, powered flight has the indisputable freedom of enabling the participant to go wherever he wishes, as long as there is an airfield, however rudimentary.

There is no shortage of facilities for the intending private pilot. Britain boasts between 150 and 200 flying clubs or groups of enthusiasts. The British Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association has almost 90 clubs in Britain in corporate membership and all offer full or part-time training facilities for those wishing to practise and study for the pilot's licence.

Under arrangements laid down by the Civil Aviation Authority there are minimum standards for courses leading to the private licence. There are two ways to get this, the final choice depending on time available and the degree of application of the individual student.

The first and most formal scheme involves training at an approved school with a minimum of 25 hours of flying to be completed within six months. On top of this students have to take a written examination on technical subjects including navigation and a general flying test.

This scheme of training is the most appropriate for students with all the time in the world for a concentrated burst of training. For those who would rather take their flying training more leisurely, the CAA has authorised a 40-hour standard course which can be completed over any length of time. Intending solo pilots must be over 17 years of age, hold a valid medical certificate and students must complete a minimum of 10 hours solo.

The one constraint is that the student has to complete the mandatory three written examinations within 12 weeks of each other and within six months of completing the required 40 hours of flying training.

Interest in the sport, or the obsession as it can become to some enthusiasts, shows no signs of tailing off, according to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. This is despite the estimated cost of between £800 and £1,000 for the competent student to acquire his licence on a single internal combustion-powered aircraft in the group A weight limit of up to 12,500 lbs.

The majority of British flying clubs cater for the student who wants to take his time over obtaining his licence. For the typical student, the exercise is a hobby and time is not of the essence, so long as the trainee pilot enjoys the exacting disciplines required in a fully competent pilot.

When the student has completed his tasks and the pleasures of examinations in the air, he or she may at leisure hire one of the 517 general aviation aircraft owned and operated for pleasure flying by Britain's flying clubs and groups. There are now approximately 21,000 to 22,000 holders of British pilots' licences compared with the estimated 8,000 to 9,000 professional pilots, according to the annual report of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Thrill

For those interested in taking a trial flight in a small, single-engine aircraft, not to taste the stomach-turning thrill of looping the loop but to test their dreams against the reality of the sky, a 20-minute flight for a single person with a qualified pilot is likely to cost between £5 and £10, depending on the aircraft type and the club.

One branch of leisure flying which is almost unaffected by the rise in oil prices is gliding. "Almost" is the qualifying word because there is a growing band of enthusiasts for the powered glider, which uses a small piston engine for brief bursts of powered flight to gain access to rising thermals or even to take off. Other ancillary fuel costs arise during towed launches either by winch or by small single-engine aircraft.

Gliding has some attractive advantages over powered flight. The British Gliding Association, which controls the sport in Britain, is careful not to over-

emphasise the joys of silent flights of fancy in the swirling clouds above the troubles of the world. There can be no doubt that many glider enthusiasts feel a sense of release, in more than one sense, and when the tow hook falls back to earth.

But that line, falling away from what may be the only source of man-controlled power, also marks the start of the supreme challenge for the glider pilot. Staying aloft with the aid of rising thermals can be a fascinating, if unpredictable, exercise.

There are other challenges based on this search for rising warm air. No longer are glider pilots content to release their tow hook and drift gently back to earth. The name of the gliding game in 1978 is to attain other records, particularly a 20-long distance cross-country routes as great as the current world record of over 1,000 km. 8 per cent per annum, a population which was achieved with-

no longer confined to the West. In the South East the sport with a long history of gliding is now so popular that clubs design, manufacture and glue have waiting lists, a result also of the shortage of land suitable for glider airfields under air-traffic clearance for this type of sport. The gliding association said its sport was growing at 8 per cent per annum, a population which was achieved with-

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Lynton McLain

from under the sea to outer space

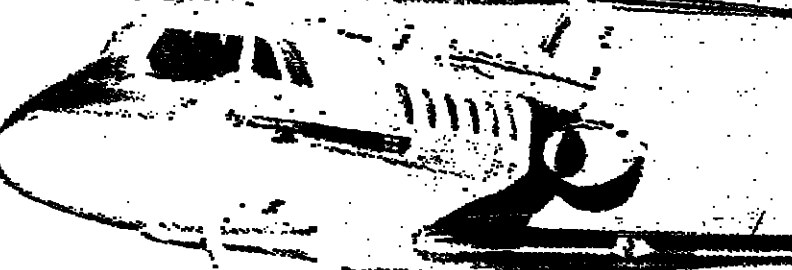
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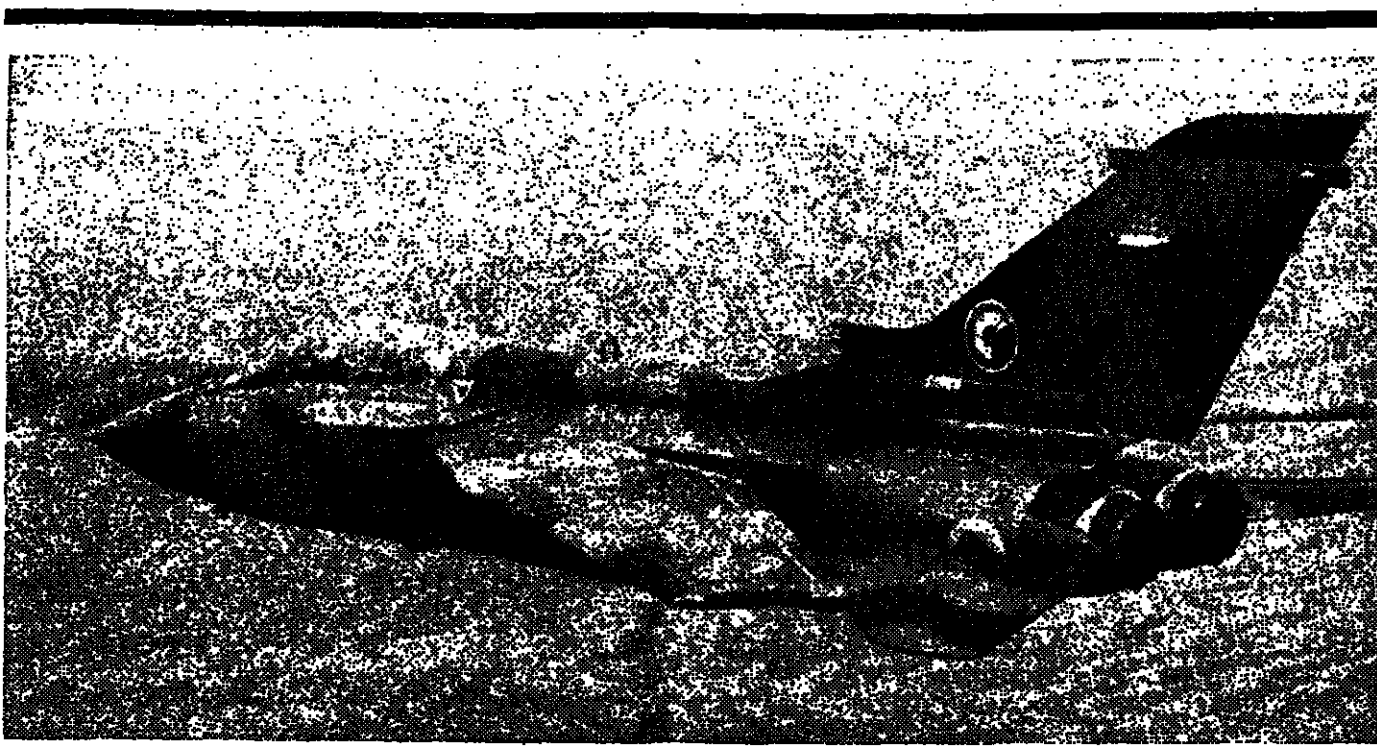
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AEROSPACE XI



The Tornado multi-role combat aircraft, which will form the main strength of the RAF in the 1980s.

Operational boost for the RAF

THE RAF is now preparing a major step forward, with the delivery in early 1980 of the first of what will eventually become a force of 385 Tornado multi-role combat aircraft.

This aircraft, coming in such numbers, represents the biggest boost the RAF has had for many years, and it is likely to only substantially improve its capabilities militarily, but also do much to boost morale which has suffered in recent years both from a lack of adequate new equipment, successive reductions in spending through Government cuts in overall defence budgets, and failure on the part of Government to keep services' pay levels comparable with those in civilian life.

The result of these problems has been not only a steady drain from the service of a substantial number of its most highly qualified personnel, but also considerable difficulties in recruiting adequate numbers of men of the right calibre to fill the gaps.

Recent pay awards by the Government, although some way towards meeting some of the complaints in the service, have certainly not gone far enough, and both the drain on technicians and recruiting difficulties seem likely to persist for some time to come unless further significant pay rises are permitted soon.

It is for these reasons that the Service chiefs are putting considerable emphasis on the introduction of the Tornado, for in it they can see the opportunity of improving the RAF both quantitatively and qualitatively, at a time when the build-up of Warsaw Pact conventional forces, including tactical combat aircraft, is gathering momentum.

As Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, commented earlier this summer: "We are still short of numbers in both aircraft and missiles. The 3 per cent growth in the Defence Budget will give us the welcome opportunity to push more resources in this direction, but we still have a good deal of catching up to do, if we are to match the growing threat to our country."

The Tornado is a multi-role combat aircraft, designed to replace a number of ageing aircraft in the service, including principally the Canberra reconnaissance aircraft, the Buccaneer strike aircraft, the Lightning strike and air superiority aircraft, the Vulcan intercontinental strike and reconnaissance aircraft, and eventually also the Phantom combat aircraft. The Tornado

Basic

Of the UK's 385 aircraft, 220 will be of the basic version (the ADV) which will be delivered next year, and the remaining 165 will be of the Air Defence Variant (ADV), which will be intended for interception and the air defence of Britain, for which purposes it will be equipped with a UK-developed air-intercept radar, and with Sky Flash and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. The ADV is designed to loiter far out over the North Sea and Atlantic approaches, to be able to detect, identify and destroy enemy aircraft at distant ranges. The ADV will arrive later in service than the basic IDS version, being delivered early in the 1980s. The prototype ADVs are now being built, and will fly during 1979.

The Tornado will be capable of speeds of more than twice that of sound at high altitude, with its wings swept back, while the aircraft will also be able to land and take off at slow speeds on dispersed sites with its wings swept forward. Inevitably, an aeroplane of such high performance will be expensive, but the most recent figure given by the UK Ministry of Defence for the aircraft is a unit production price of £7.9m for the basic version and £9.4m

for the ADV in 1978-79 prices. The overall production programme of 808 aircraft is not likely to be costing the three countries much less than about £7bn, while research and development has to be added to this. It seems likely, therefore, that the eventual overall cost of the Tornado to the three countries will be in excess of £7.5bn, and it is not surprising that the RAF is treating the aircraft with immense respect.

The manufacturing programme is the biggest yet seen on a military aircraft in Europe in peace time. At its peak production rate, over the next year or two, it will be employing some 10,000 workers in British Aerospace, 6,000 at Rolls-Royce and some 8,000 in equipment and avionics programmes. Indirectly, it will employ another 12,000 on ancillary industrial tasks. A similar number will be employed in West Germany, and some 10,000 in Italy — a total of around 80,000 in the three countries, and involving more than 500 companies.

The Tornado is not the only new aircraft joining the RAF in the near future. A fleet of four-engined Nimrod anti-submarine warfare aircraft is now being modified by British Aerospace at its Woodford, Lancashire, factory, to undertake the Airborne Early Warning role — the detection at an early stage of enemy aircraft approaching the NATO airspace far out over the North Atlantic. The AEW Nimrod is the British equivalent of the U.S. Boeing Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), which is being used both by the U.S. Air Force and is planned for other NATO nations, and is intended to be compatible with the Nimrod. For the anti-submarine warfare role, the existing Nimrods in RAF service are being progressively modified and updated to improve their submarine detection and destruction capabilities.

In addition, a long-standing RAF need for a medium-lift helicopter has been met by an order for 30 of the big Boeing Vertol CH-47 Chinooks, costing some \$200m in all, and with deliveries due to start around mid-1980. Also, earlier this year, it was announced that the RAF's long-range strategic tanker force for refuelling combat aircraft far from base was being strengthened with an infusion of up to nine VC10 aircraft, brought from airlines and now being refurbished and modified for tanker duties by British Aerospace. These will supplement the present force of

Victor tankers. Hawk trainers are also now moving into service. In the transport field, the Hercules fleet of tactical and strategic transports are being reconditioned to enable them to serve at least until the late 1990s. The Sea King helicopter is coming into service with the RAF for search and rescue duties.

So far as the air defence of this country in itself is concerned, it has been recognised that the development of long-range strategic bombers by the Soviet Union is resulting in an increasing threat to the UK and the Western seaboard of other NATO European countries — an attack via the back door is just as much a possibility as an attack across the Central European land-mass itself, especially now that the Soviet Union has the Backfire long-range supersonic bomber in service.

For this reason, considerable emphasis has been put in recent months on the improvement of the UK's own air defences. The Air Defence Variant of the Tornado coupled with the Airborne Early Warning Nimrod, the Sky-Flash air-to-air missile and the improvements in the tanker force, will do much to help improve this situation, but in addition, measures which are being taken at home include increased numbers of surface-to-air missiles, including Bloodhound and Rapier, hardened shelters for aircraft and other key installations, and wider aircraft dispersal.

Enhance

Beyond this, the RAF is looking at a wide variety of new developments to enhance its combat capabilities in the future, when increasingly complex technology is bound to be matched by continued or perhaps even increasing financial stringency. The RAF makes the point that it is not necessarily in business to perpetuate manned aeroplanes as such and that there are many other developments that can also prove useful. These include improved methods of low-level intrusion, perhaps by "stand-off" weapons such as Cruise Missiles, together with improved "electronic counter-measures," and better techniques of target identification and acquisition and improved weapons accuracy. The possibility of such revolutionary techniques as "in-flight re-arming" is not being overlooked, although this might prove technologically difficult.

At the same time, considerable emphasis is being placed behind the scenes on the development of the so-called Jaguar-Harrier replacement for the late 1980s. Currently known as Air Staff Target 403, the primary aim is to try to evolve a light-weight, fast, highly manoeuvrable strike-attack aircraft capable of also holding its own in air-to-air combat.

The aim is not to develop just an improved Jaguar or a Super-Harrier, but to try to identify the possible tasks confronting the RAF 10 to 20 years ahead, and to develop an aircraft that will be able to meet them. This means that the RAF's planners must try to forecast not only what the enemy might be doing 10 to 20 years from now, but also what the "state of the art" will be in such things as micro-electronics, composite materials, guidance systems and weapons capabilities. It is a formidable challenge, and one in which a great deal of effort is being placed. The detailed conception of this new aircraft is proceeding slowly, with strong emphasis being placed on the possibility of international collaboration. But that such an aircraft will eventually emerge is inevitable, for it will be essential to supplement the Tornado in the RAF's front-line capability in the 1990s and probably even beyond.

L.McL.

M.D.



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MCDONNELL DOUGLAS



Avionics

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

used with advantage by many aircraft of all types for additional flight safety.

In the military field British companies have a world lead in certain specialised areas. The Decca Navigator Company, which has recently been awarded a contract from the British Ministry of Defence for £2m worth of Doppler navigation and electronic chart equipment. The Doppler 80 equipment is being fitted to the Westland/Aerospaciale Gazelle helicopters and similar systems have been fitted to the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft. Decca says there is considerable export potential for the Doppler 80 system. Over 1,400 of the earlier Doppler 70 systems were made, and fitted to some 86 different types of fixed and rotary wing aircraft used by 45 countries.

Marconi Avionics is nearing completion of a four-year programme to adapt its AD 620 military area-navigation system to civil use. The system has the advantage of using existing aircraft instrumentation, and Marconi expects the system to

be available on the general aviation market within two years. The company is expected to aim the greater proportion of sales of the new system at the North American market, through Canadian Marconi, at a peak price of slightly more than £7,500.

Marconi Avionics, which is a part of the GEC-Marconi Electronics group, is expected to launch new products at this year's Farnborough Air Show. The company has acquired a reputation for innovation in advanced technology, particularly for military applications. At Farnborough it is expected to show the so-called "mono-hud," or head-up display, for use in civil airliners. The technique has been used successfully in the military field for some time, and Marconi has produced head-up display systems for use in a number of U.S. aircraft.

The latest to use the Marconi display is the F-18, in quantity production for the U.S. and the advantage of using existing European air forces. The F-18 aircraft instrumentation, and will use the HUDSTIGHT unit and a new head-up display

working with a HUD weapon aiming computer system taken from the American A-4M HUDWAC production line.

Ferranti is also in the forefront of British avionics developments on show at this year's Farnborough Air Show. The company has received the initial order from Panavia to produce the first 100 cockpit displays for the Tornado. These include a combined moving-map display with superimposed radar for the navigator and a moving-map display for the pilot.

One of the company's recent major successes was the award of a U.S. contract to supply its COMED 2035 moving-map horizontal displays to McDonnell Douglas for the U.S. Navy A-18 Hornet strike fighter. The work will be carried out with the Bendix Corporation of the U.S., which will work under licence from Ferranti. When the aircraft reaches the production phase, Ferranti is confident that this will bring a production contract for its moving-map system worth up to \$9.5m.

AEROSPACE XII



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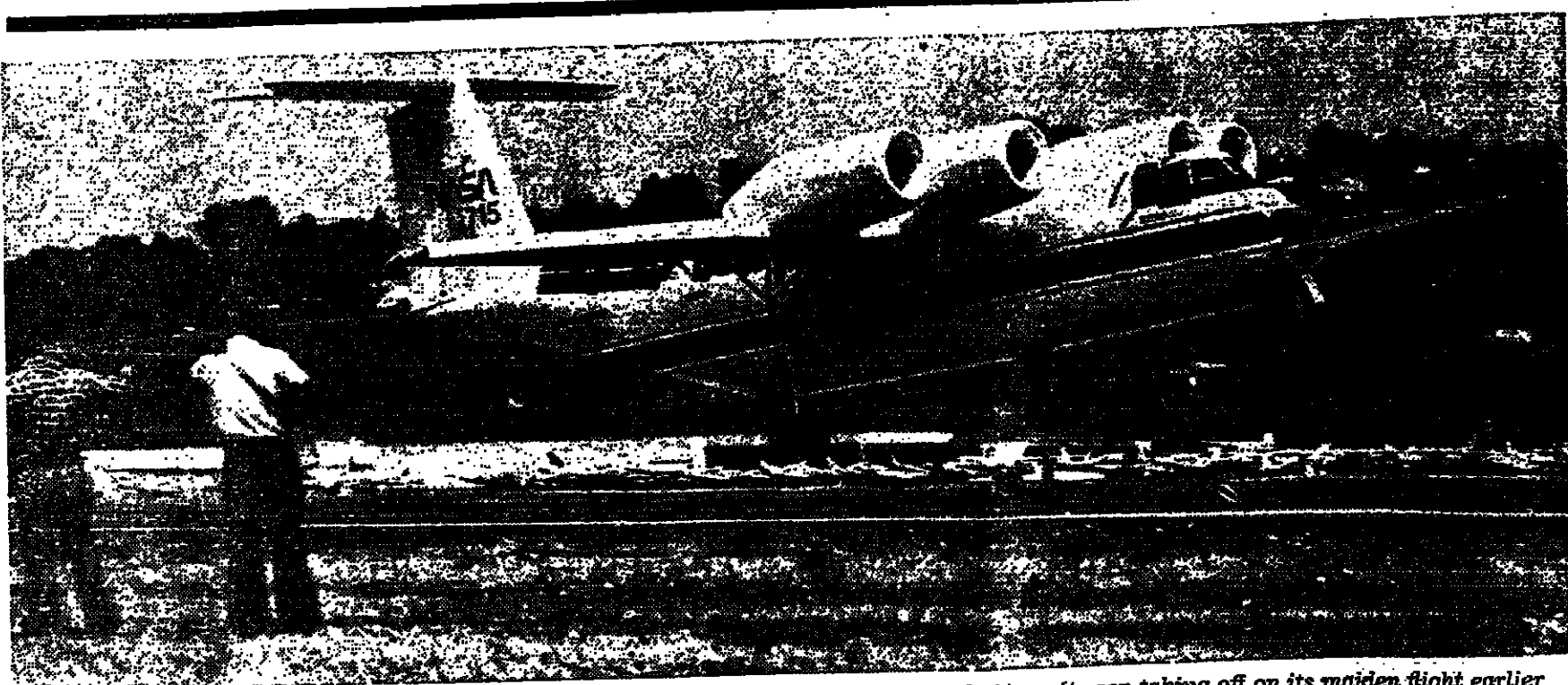
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The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Quiet Short-Haul Research Aircraft seen taking off on its maiden flight earlier this summer from Boeing Field in Seattle. This one-of-a-kind research aircraft is intended to demonstrate new methods of reducing the noise of modern airliners and of shortening their take-off and landing runs. Both improvements will be essential for new airliners of the future, especially those on "bus-stop" type air routes.

Well set for progress

UNITED STATES

THE U.S. aerospace industry is well set to build on the solid gains established last year when sales, profits and order books increased substantially. The considerable growth of airline traffic is helping to maintain a good order rate for commercial airliners, while general aviation business and military sales are also climbing steadily.

The industry's total sales last year amounted to a record \$32.3bn which, though welcome, was actually worth less after adjusting for inflation than in the peak years of the late 1960s. Nonetheless, last year's improvements were across the board and included all four major product groups—aircraft, missiles, space and non-aerospace products. Profitability was also better, with net profit after taxes as a percentage of sales increasing from 3.4 per cent to 4.3 per cent.

Most of the increase in the industry's order book from \$39.7bn to \$44.3bn was the result of commercial aircraft orders. Last year proved a bumper one for Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed, which together pulled in 358 orders compared to 202 in 1976 and 132 in 1975. At the beginning of the year most analysts expected this order rate to slow down, largely

because of an expected fall in demand for the world's most successful commercial aircraft, the Boeing 737. To some extent this expectation has proved correct as U.S. airlines complete replacement orders for their ageing 707s and DC8s.

By late August Boeing had taken 71 orders for the 737, which is slightly below the rate of the previous two years. However, this had been more than offset by a hefty increase in orders for the 737 and 747 aircraft. Boeing has not booked more than 39 orders a year for the 737 since 1974 but by late August the tally stood at an impressive 69. The 747 is enjoying no less of a sales boom, with 60 orders swept in compared to a record 42 in the whole of last year.

Orders

Lockheed's L-1011 TriStar is also having a good year thanks to a round dozen order from Pan Am. By late August the company had taken 18 firm orders, which was more than in any year since 1973 and compared with just two last year. The order rate at McDonnell Douglas is also running well ahead of last year. By the end of June the St. Louis-based company had orders for 23 DC-9 jets and 23 of the wide-bodied DC-10s. This was substantially above last year's first half

figures, although it would still be a surprise many observers if McDonnell Douglas finished the year with more than last year's record 128 orders.

As a result of this strong demand, Boeing's order book at the end of June stood higher than at any time this decade, with 318 aircraft to be delivered. McDonnell Douglas, with 123 on order, had the highest backlog since 1973. But Lockheed was still far short of its best year, 1971, when it had orders for 104 aircraft and its total at the end of June amounted to a modest 31.

Mr. Alan Benasuli, aerospace analyst with Drexel Burnham Lambert, reckons that commercial aircraft revenues for the three companies together will top \$10bn in 1980 and that Boeing's profits from this sector may approach \$600m compared to an estimated \$150m in 1977. Meanwhile, commercial aircraft losses at McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed should, he says, begin to decline in 1979.

In contrast, however, it is generally acknowledged that the risks facing these companies are greater than they have been for several years. This is because the aerospace industry is entering a new phase of commercial aircraft development at a time when foreign competition is stiffer than it has been for ten years or more. Boeing

faces the greatest exposure, but also the greatest potential reward. It is now offering three new aircraft incorporating advanced wing technology, increased use of light-weight materials and high by-pass ratio jet engines.

Most attention has focused recently on the 787 whose launch was confirmed in July by an order for 30 aircraft from United Airlines. This is a twin-engine wide-bodied aircraft with a range of 2,000 miles and seating 180-200 passengers in a seven abreast configuration. The 777 is a trijet version of the 787 with the same fuselage, but seating 235 passengers and a transcontinental range.

Third

The 757 is the third new model planned by Boeing and is a twin-engine narrow-bodied aircraft, seating 140 to 160 passengers, possibly using the same fuselage as the 727. Estimated launching costs of the 757 are between \$500m and \$1bn with possible first deliveries in 1983-84.

However, launch costs of the 787/777 family are thought to be close to \$3.5bn over the next five years and partially for this reason and partially to ensure a flow of orders from foreign airlines, Boeing has sought foreign participation in the pro-

ject. A shared risks agreement was announced in August with the Italian state manufacturer, Aeritalia and this is expected to be followed by an agreement with prospective Japanese partners. Such agreements notwithstanding, Boeing could be called upon to bear between 75 and 80 per cent of the start up costs.

United's order for Boeing 787s coupled with Airbus Industrie's decision to develop the 200-seater A-310 version of the A-300 Airbus has led McDonnell Douglas to abandon its plans to proceed with its own version of this type of aircraft. But Lockheed has the Dash 400 version of the TriStar on the drawing board. Because of low incremental development costs—estimated at between \$50m and \$100m—the company may be tempted to try to win a small foothold in this market.

Assuming that Airbus and Boeing are the two major factors then it is thought that Boeing may capture two thirds of the available orders and the A-300/310 most of the remainder. However, competition between the two will cut into profit margins which means that Boeing is unlikely to gain the 20 per cent or more which is thought to be the yard from the extraordinary 727 programme.

John Wyles

Business aircraft a growing fleet

THE USE of small transport aircraft for business and executive travel is now expanding rapidly throughout the Western world, as companies and their executives come increasingly to appreciate the greater comfort, convenience and cost savings that this form of communication can give them compared with normal scheduled air transport. In Britain, particularly, the demand for both jet and propeller-driven aircraft for use by executives is expanding, and all the signs are that a healthy demand will prevail for some time to come.

"Business aviation" is part of the broader field of "general aviation," which involves all types of flying outside the public-service transport operations conducted by the scheduled and charter airlines. Thus, general aviation includes not only business aviation, but also private, leisure and sport flying, gliding, and such other aeronautical activities as "hang-gliding" and ballooning. But business aviation is one of the most rapidly expanding areas of general aviation, which in itself is now growing rapidly. According to recent research by Frost and Sullivan, market research analysts, spending by companies and individuals on over 20,000 general aviation aircraft during the next decade is likely to top £1bn.

While in the period immediately following the oil crisis of late 1973 and the subsequent industrial depression there was a slackening in demand for air transport, business aviation remained one of the stronger elements in aviation, and recovered much more quickly, especially in the U.S. In the UK, the recovery was slower, but is now very strong, and in the first six months of last year 67 general aviation aircraft were sold compared with 83 in the whole of 1975.

All the evidence from aircraft manufacturers and representatives of general aviation operators suggests that this improvement is likely to continue. British Aerospace, which manufactures the successful 125 business jet, estimates that there are over 1,000 business jets in service around the world. A small number have been bought by rich individuals for their exclusive, personal use, but the vast majority have been bought by companies after detailed evaluation of operating economics and other likely benefits.

For a business jet to be a successful purchase or lease, a potential user would typically need to travel extensively throughout the year. The

executives who cannot afford to waste time in waiting for conventional, scheduled airline services, and wish to avoid the problems involved in transport from airports to perhaps widely scattered factories or offices. Whereas the scheduled airlines are served by 38 airports in Britain, there are a further 400 or so airstrips and airfields used solely by general aviation aircraft.

In addition, throughout Western Europe, there are many hundreds of similar small airstrips or local airfields that are available for business aviation, many of them having customs facilities laid on or available at short notice. If a helicopter is used in place of a fixed-wing aircraft, this operational flexibility is considerably enhanced, stemming from the ability to land and take-off vertically—often from confined spaces that no fixed-wing aircraft, however small, could negotiate.

Against these must be set the need for a greater number of overnight stays if the executive has been obliged to use scheduled airlines, with reduced flexibility and greater total travelling time.

The most extensive use of business aircraft is to be found in the U.S., where the leading 1,000 companies alone now operate over 1,360 aircraft, of which 550 are business jets. In Britain, where development

has been slower, the Business Aircraft Users' Association has 57 corporate members, which own 112 business aircraft, 42 of which are jets. The Association believes that interest in business flying is here to stay, and unlikely to fall suddenly, unless there is a dramatic downturn in business fortunes—when the company aircraft is often the first item to be cut. Occasionally the cutting-out of the aircraft and its expenses, however, is little more than a gesture, for companies have been known to sell an aircraft one day and lease it back from its new owners the next.

The cost benefits, however, can be considerable, as the General Aviation Manufacturers and Traders Association has pointed out. The Association has estimated that on a direct comparison, the seat mile cost of a European scheduled airline and an air taxi, hired for a specific occasion or for a period lease, with a full load of passengers, can show a saving of up to 25 per cent in favour of the air taxi.

Lynton McLain

Electronics Weekly

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مكتبة من الامارات

New ring of confidence

FRANCE

THERE IS beginning to be a new ring of confidence about the French aerospace industry. The two major episodes of the past couple of years are behind it: the defeat of the Dassault Mirage in the "Arms Deal of the Century" against American competition to supply fighter aircraft to Norway, Denmark, Holland and Belgium; and the long guerrilla war to gain acceptance for Concorde in the U.S.

Instead, the French now think they have a series of winners in the international battle for markets. Since the turn of the year the orders for the Airbus have doubled making it possible for the French to claim that they will pass the minimum break-

even point of sales, and a new version of the Airbus is to be developed. In the military sphere the Franco-German Alpha-Jet trainer is selling substantially and an agreement has just been signed with Lockheed under which the U.S. company will sponsor the Alpha-Jet in the competition to find a replacement trainer for the U.S. Navy. Still in the military area the prototype of the latest Dassault Mirage, the 2000, is flying while in the helicopter sphere Eurospatiale, the State-owned concern, now ranks as a substantial world producer. With its three basic versions of the Falcon, Dassault has also made its presence felt in the market for business jets.

There remain, of course, deep uncertainties. The foremost of them is whether the aim of developing a full family of aircraft around the Airbus consortium can be realised. While the

go-ahead for the 200-seater 310 version of the Airbus has been received there seems much more doubt about whether a Euro-Asian competitor in the 130-160 seat class of aircraft can be justified commercially, with or without British participation. Essentially tripartite discussions between the British, French and Germans on such a project, the JET or Joint European Transport, have been going on for more than a year, but the project still seems a long way from jelling.

In part this is because of the difficulty of defining a commercial target for the aircraft. With a 130-seat capacity the proposed smaller version of the JET would be in competition with the existing and strong-selling Boeing 737. As the aircraft goes up in size it bumps up against, in turn, the existing 747, the projected Boeing 757, and eventually the Airbus it-

self as well as the McDonnell-Douglas project for an Advanced Technology Medium Range design.

In the second place the JET has always been designed around only one type of engine, the Franco-American CFM-56, which is a civilian derivative of the General Electric engine intended for the B-1 bomber.

The only company to show positive interest in the JET is Air France: it was authorised to lease 13 Boeing 737s to replace its Caravelles on condition that it became the launch airline for the JET. At the time of writing, both parts of this scenario are foggy since the company's pilots are refusing to operate the 737 with two men "up front" rather than three and the company is refusing to order the aircraft until it is assured of two-man operation. As a result it is in danger of losing its place in the delivery queue.

There is relatively little development in the French aerospace sector which is not shared with other European countries. The Mirage 2000 is the only big unilateral venture, partly because Dassault is, by tradition, a company intensely proud of its know-how and notably "unclubable" and partly because the company is crucial to the maintenance of an independent defence strategy.

Pride of place in collaborative ventures must go to the Airbus. Total orders stand at 108 and options at 53, including orders and options for the 310. Seventeen companies have now acquired the Airbus and, extrapolating from existing orders, the consortium calculates that sales of around 300 machines are probable, and if the order for 23 B-4s from Eastern Airlines and its option for 25 310s are included the total reaches 350. This would make the Airbus a more successful venture, in sheer numbers sold, than the Caravelle, which the French

tend to regard as the great post-war missed opportunity in the same way as the British regret the failure of the Comet to capitalise on its technological advance.

The question of British participation in the 310 is not essential. British Aerospace will continue to make the wings for the B-2 and B-4 versions and, if there is British participation in the consortium, will undoubtedly make the new wing for the 310 as well. If not, outline contracts exist for other suppliers.

Doubt

The big doubt over the Airbus is still its ability to sell competitively in the U.S. The two recent large European successes in the U.S.—that of the purchase of the Airbus by Eastern and Pan American's decision to order the long-range TriStar with Rolls-Royce engines—both owe at least something to the provision by the Europeans of cut-price financing which has raised protests from U.S. manufacturers. United finally opted for the Boeing 767 rather than the Airbus, and it is clear that every order gleaned from the U.S. will be a hard struggle, commercially, financially and politically.

The other success story in the civil aircraft field is that of Dassault's Falcon series of business jets. The new tri-engine Falcon 50 which exists in several prototypes has more than 70 orders to its credit while the Falcon 20, which is twin-engine, last year pulled off the order for the American coast-guard. With some 700 business jets sold, Dassault is compensated for its ill-fated Mercure airliner, of which a handful are operated by a single company, Air Inter.

In the military area again most ventures are co-operative. The Alpha-Jet is a joint Dassault-Dornier venture and the Jaguar, which has been seening service in France's interventions in Africa, is a British Aerospace-Dassault-Breguet



An A-300 Airbus in service with Eastern Airlines of the U.S. The Airbus is now attracting an increasing number of airline customers throughout the world, and firm orders and options stand at over 150 aircraft.

(originally Breguet) venture. State-owned, has developed the M-53 engine for the new Mirage FFR 10.7th export orders last year of which some FFR 8th was military. On the structural side the Government is still working out the methods of its acquisition of a blocking minority of one third in Dassault, though it has now got its own men on the Board. It felt that Dassault's role was so pivotal to the French industry (though it only employs 15,000 of the 108,000 in the sector) that the closer co-ordination it felt was necessary could not come about without the exercise of control.

The French aerospace industry at the moment presents a mixed profile. The strand of unilateral development is still important: the theme of European co-operation is very much at the forefront of French conceptions; but, because of the importance of the U.S. market and the need to maintain the country's technology at competitive levels, the motif of co-operation with the U.S. is certainly present. It is with this diversified policy that French aerospace will go into the vital 1980s.

David Curry

Partnership the keynote

W. GERMANY

FOR THE West German aerospace industry, the past 12 months have been decisive in setting out the path it is likely to take in the next few years, without so far pushing it very far down that path. Several of the big decisions that had been pending have been taken—the refusal to abandon the VFW-614, the exhilarating launch of the smaller A-310 version of the European Airbus, and not least, the resolution of the industry's future structure.

In very broad terms, the West German aerospace and the Government in Bonn agree that the future lies in strengthening European aerospace co-operation. Already, the West German industry is involved in all the major European consortia companies—Airbus Industrie, the Panavia group building the Tornado Multi-role Combat Aircraft, Euro-missile, and the newest international grouping which will develop a generation of advanced military helicopters for the mid-1980s. What is true for the West German aerospace manufacturers is even more relevant to the engine companies, likewise deeply committed to international co-operative programmes.

West Germany's absolute faith in partnership among European countries is different in one important respect from that of its principal associate, France, in that there is little of the ardent chauvinism still to be heard in Paris and directed mainly at the U.S. That is not to say that German officials do not ultimately regard the development of a truly European industry as a political goal they do. But they do not want to pursue it except on terms that make business sense.

Pitfalls

During the talks this past summer on whether or not Britain rejoins the Airbus group, West Germany's voice has been persistent in pointing out what Bonn sees as the longer term commercial pitfalls for Britain of "going Boeing." And in appealing to London to rejoin the Europeans, it has stressed its own need to be convinced by the manufacturers that the 310 project would be a sales success, before it would commit funds. Had the 310 not won an impressive array of launching orders in July, from airlines known for their independence from governmental interference (including Luft-hansa), it is not certain that the German government would have lobbied London so hard. As it is, Bonn has quietly dissociated itself from the Airbus consortium manufacturers' claim that joining in the 310 programme must also mean Britain's signing up now to help develop the smaller Joint European Transport narrow-bodied

jet projects. Herr Martin Gruener, the Economics Ministry State Secretary, who is the official "co-ordinator" for the industry, is quite simply not yet convinced that either of the proposed jet aircraft would find a market. He would prefer to concentrate limited resources on what has the best chance of success.

In the German Government's view, the case for the entire Airbus project, in all its variants, has been won in the market place. That German officials believe, is what has made the U.S. manufacturers in the past year or two so much more interested in seeking co-operative deals with Europe in the civil sector of the industry, even though the European share of the world airliner market remains relatively modest. Bonn is not against co-operation with the Americans, but it does mean to make sure that Europe is not merely used by the U.S. giants as a subcontractor without design leadership or responsibility of its own. That is exactly what the Germans fear might result from deals such as Boeing's offer to Britain.

Military co-operation with the U.S. is a very different matter. Here, the German Government is keenly interested in seeing a reality made out of President Carter's promise of a "two-way street," and in making real progress towards joint development and procurement for NATO. An immediate issue is that of a version of the Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) for the European allies. A German consortium headed by the privately-owned Dornier company is ready to go ahead with the complex avionics and instrumentation of the aircraft as soon as a political decision on costs is finally reached.

Similarly, German manufacturers are already involved in exploratory talks on designs for the advanced tactical fighter aircraft which NATO will require at the end of the next decade, and they are keen to make this as much a trans-Atlantic as an inter-European venture. The biggest of the West German aerospace companies, Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, has already signed an agreement on joint development of the new technologies that such an aircraft will require with McDonnell Douglas.

Further evidence that, technically, Europe has much to offer in such a partnership has come from the multinational Spacelab consortium, in which a complete orbital laboratory for use with the U.S. Space Shuttle has been developed in Europe with co-ordination by ERNO, a subsidiary of the German-Dutch Vereinigte Flugtechnische Werke-Fokker group. The future of the consortium, and of an enduring European contribution towards America's manned space flight programme appears, however, less than certain once the initial Spacelab missions (which will include European astronauts) have been completed.

With the two main military programmes, the German-British Tornado and the German-French Alpha Jet, now in full production and the European Airbus ringing up a steady flow of orders for the 310 and for the B-2 and B-4 types, the work prospects for the West German aerospace no longer look as bleak as they did a year ago. There is even intermittent talk of the possibility of capacity being expanded, if the Airbus programme picks up to the point where output might be raised to four aircraft a month; why not then have a second production line, and why not in Germany?

MBB and VFW-Fokker, the two German partners in Airbus Industrie (via the holding com-

pany Deutsche Airbus), are very careful to play down such suggestions. There are likely to be no strategic decisions of this sort before the outstanding domestic problem of the industry is resolved—when, and on what terms, these two companies merge. Talk of a merger, that would give the German aerospace industry a "single voice" comparable to British Aerospace, or to the French industry, has been consistent yet inconclusive for several years. Herr Gruener, for the Government, has been attempting to push the two companies into it, yet he has lacked the power to force their hands.

Last December, Herr Gruener acquired a more direct lever on the situation when he brought State aid to the rescue of VFW-Fokker, in severe difficulties after it had been obliged to shut down the commercially unsuccessful VFW-614 short-haul jet airliner programme. Serious merger discussions with MBB were made a condition of Bonn's rescue operation. Yet these have still come to nothing concrete. MBB suffered a heavy blow when its new chairman, Herr Helmut Langfelder, heir to Herr Ludwig Boelkow, was tragically killed in a helicopter crash. On the VFW-Fokker side, there was indignation at Carter's promise of the condescending terms offered by MBB, and continuing uncertainty about how the Dutch interests should be financially protected, and how the cross-frontier integration achieved by the group might be preserved where possible.

Strengthen

Once again, VFW-Fokker may be able to strengthen its hand as the dowry of work for the Airbus programme builds up. Moreover, the German VFW factories also stand to gain from any further sales advances by the Fokker-designed F-27 and F-28 airliners and from subcontracting on the Tornado. Yet it seems unlikely that the German-Dutch group, hailed at its creation as a pioneering multinational merger, can maintain its independence indefinitely or do more than strike a slightly better deal for its shareholders. To that extent, time may be on its side.

MBB, in addition to filling the void in its top management, needs to resolve a tussle going on among its shareholders, that has, at times, set the two state governments of Hamburg and Bavaria (which hold some 40 per cent between them) at odds for use with the big industrial companies that own the remainder. The two state governments, concerned about jobs, evidently mean to hang on to their holdings long enough to have a direct say in how the inevitable rationalisation is carried out—the ultimate purpose of the merger with VFW-Fokker, as Herr Gruener and the Federal Government see it. As a first step towards shaking out MBB's capital structure, however, Boeing has sold its 12 per cent stake to Siemens, the electrical giant, which in turn is hoping to sell it to an industrial consortium.

It remains to be seen whether a merged MBB-VFW group, perhaps also drawing in Fokker, would be able to bite the bullet of painful closures of smaller works and rationalisation of a workforce that, at around 50,000, is smaller than the British or French industry yet still probably too big. Dornier, the third company in the industry, is firmly resolved to keep its independence and, with the Alpha-Jet and a number of profitable smaller programmes, it can probably afford to.

Adrian Dicks

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The armoury hides its power

SOVIET UNION

THE SOVIET aerospace industry is not only one of the two largest in the world, matching that of the U.S. in size and scope, but also one of the most secretive. Virtually no details or statistics of its locations, its total labour force, its volume of output and its plans and prospects are published in the way the aerospace industries of the West reveal themselves.

But its sheer size is indicated by the fact that Soviet civil and military aviation remains largely self-sufficient, with virtually no imports beyond a small quantity of high-technology specialist equipment and an occasional interest shown in some specialist areas of Western aerospace development, such as advanced aerodynamics.

At the same time, the industry supports an airline the size of Aeroflot (which last year carried more than 100m passengers, and which in the five years from 1976 to 1980 is expected to carry no less than 550m, a rise of 30 per cent over the 1971-75 five-year plan goal), while it also keeps an air force supplied with a vast array of different aircraft ranging from small helicopters to the most advanced supersonic combat machines such as MiG-25 Foxbat and the Sukhoi Su-19 Fencer. Supersonic attack aircraft now being seen increasingly on the NATO/Warsaw Pact borders in central Europe.

Visits to Soviet aerospace facilities by Western journalists are firmly discouraged, and only a few visiting dignitaries such

as Heads of State or Ministers involved in aerospace affairs have been allowed to see Soviet civil aircraft production, while military production plants remain a closed book to the West.

But for all this secrecy the West has been able to learn a great deal about Soviet aviation in recent years—and especially about its civil capabilities—from the aircraft that have been permitted to visit foreign air displays such as those in Paris, Hanover, in bids to promote foreign sales, and on the military side from occasional defections, such as that by a Soviet MiG-25 Foxbat pilot, Lt. Viktor Belenko, to Japan two years ago with his aircraft.

Information thus obtained indicates that while the Soviet aerospace industry may from time to time adopt comparatively simple solutions to some advanced technological problems, the quality of research, design, development and production remains exceptionally high, and all those in the West who have had any kind of access at all to Soviet aerospace—for example, the U.S. scientists involved in recent joint U.S.-Soviet space activities—are under no delusions as to the competence or quality of Soviet engineers, designers and scientists.

Famous

Broadly, the Soviet aerospace industry is based on ten basic "design bureaux" originally founded by, and in some cases still run by, some of the most famous names in world aviation. In alphabetical order, these are: Antonov, specialising in transport aircraft and heavy long-range bombers and recon-

naissance types; Beriev, involved with amphibious aircraft; Ilyushin, founded by the late Sergei Ilyushin, and also a transport aircraft design bureau; Kamov, specialising in helicopters of various types; MiG, founded by the late Colonel-General Artem I. Mikoyan, his partner Mikhail I. Gurevich, specialising in the famous line of MiG combat aircraft; MIL, founded by the late M. I. Mil, also a helicopter specialist with "heavy lift" capabilities; Milashev, a bomber specialist, whose most significant development has been the long-range four-engine jet bomber known by its NATO code-name of Bison; Sukhoi, another famous combat aircraft specialist bureau, its latest product being the Sukhoi Su-19 Fencer variable-geometry attack aircraft; Tupolev, both a transport aircraft and a bomber specialist, whose most famous product to date has been the TU-144 supersonic airliner, the so-called "Concordski" because of its design similarities to the Anglo-French Concorde supersonic airliner; and Yakovlev, a versatile design bureau which has produced not only all-weather fighters, basic trainers and helicopters, but more recently also three-engine short-range transport aircraft, such as the Yak-40 and Yak-42.

That the Soviet aerospace industry is not without its design problems has been proved by the comparatively poor performance of the Tu-144 supersonic airliner. Although begun at about the same time as the Concorde, with the prototype flying a little in advance of the Anglo-French aircraft, the Tu-144 suffered a number of problems during development, not least the crash of the demonstrator aircraft at the Paris Air Show in 1973 which delayed its entry into regular airline service, and although it is operating on a limited number of domestic air routes, the aircraft is still rarely seen outside the Soviet Union even on demonstration flights. Although eventually it is intended that it should operate regularly between Moscow and Havana, Cuba, the Far East and points in Africa, so far no such regular overseas services have been established.

Bigger

A more significant Soviet transport aircraft development has been the production of the Ilyushin IL-96 wide-bodied four-engine "airbus" given the NATO code-name Cumber, and designed to carry up to about 230 passengers over short-to-medium ranges. Thus it is approximately comparable in performance to the European twin-engine A-300 Airbus. This is the biggest Soviet passenger transport aircraft in production, but while so far there are no reports of anything larger in the pipeline, there is little doubt that because of the vast distances in the Soviet Union, and the increasing volume of internal air travel, a need will eventually arise for a transport comparable to the U.S. Boeing 747.

Considerable significance also attaches to other Soviet transport aircraft developments as the Tupolev Tu-154 three-engine medium-to-long range airliner, and the more recently developed Yakovlev Yak-42 three-engine short-range transport. Well over 100 Tu-154s are in service with Aeroflot, and others are in use by various

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Long-term promise of the Boeing deal

ITALY

ITALY HAS just fulfilled its wildest ambitions in the civil aviation field. After some seven years of discussions and stop-go negotiations, agreement was finally reached this month between the giant Seattle Boeing group and Aeritalia, Italy's State aerospace company, which will see Aeritalia participate on a risk-sharing basis in Boeing's 787 programme for the construction of a new medium-range passenger airliner.

In many respects, the deal, which will give Aeritalia a share of some 15 per cent, valued at about \$2bn in the new Boeing project, is expected to dictate in large measure the future shape of the Italian aerospace industry. In the next five years the weight of civil aerospace is now likely to increase substantially in Italy, gradually eroding the dominance so far of military production.

Merger

For the past decade or so, since the creation of Aeritalia through the merger of the non-engine aerospace activities of the private Fiat group and the aerospace sector of the IRI-Finmeccanica State holding in 1969, to give Italy a national aerospace industry capable of participating in international joint ventures, the emphasis has focused essentially on military production. Indeed military aircraft currently account for as much as three quarters of Italy's overall aerospace turnover, which last year totalled L740bn (about \$450m), representing a 4.2 per cent increase in real terms over the previous year.

This overdependence on military sales has proved a severe handicap to the development of Italy's national aerospace industry, and is forcefully reflected in the L20bn losses reported by Aeritalia last year and the group's constantly rising indebtedness. The absence of an adequate Government aerospace policy, and in particular the absence of the sort of financial backing required for the development of a national aerospace industry, have been serious obstacles to growth. The low level of defence

spending has exacerbated the industry's problems even further. Defence expenditure in Italy last year, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, amounted to some \$4.4bn—or the equivalent of 2.6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product—the great part of which was eaten up in wages, salaries, and current expenditure of all kinds. At the same time the Italian Air Force, the single biggest customer, accounting for about 70 per cent of Aeritalia's sales, is notorious for deferring payments which, as a result of the disastrous bureaucracy, can take up to 26 months to settle, forcing the aerospace industry further into debt.

The absence of a comprehensive defence programme has forced the industry to look elsewhere, to export markets. But until recently the lack of Government export support and the reliance on predominantly U.S. engine licences has severely limited overseas sales. Last year, exports totalled L330bn and represented a drop of 7 per cent in real terms over the previous year.

Aeritalia's G-222 military transport aircraft is a case in point. It is currently fitted with General Electric T64 engines, but a U.S. embargo has blocked a sale valued at an estimated \$400m of some 20 G-222 aircraft to Libya. The Italian industry has long suspected that U.S. embargoes are not wholly motivated by security reasons, but also by more mundane commercial considerations, especially since the G-222 is a rival of the larger Lockheed Hercules transport aircraft—its subject of a notoriously controversial sale to the Italian Air Force.

Aeritalia, however, is now hoping to get round the embargo by fitting the heavier Rolls-Royce engine on the G-222. Negotiations with Rolls-Royce are understood to be at an advanced stage. Against this general background it is not altogether surprising that the national aerospace industry in Italy has sought for some time to achieve a better balance of its productive activities by reducing the weight of the military sector on overall turnover. With the Boeing programme, in which Aeritalia will be responsible for most of the moving parts of the new 787's wings as well as the

delicate radome or nose cone, and with the continuing construction of McDonnell Douglas DC-9 and DC-10 body panels and tail units, Aeritalia eventually hopes to see its activities more evenly distributed by the mid-1980s between military and civil production.

Sig. Giuseppe Petrilli, the chairman of the giant IRI State holding company, said the Boeing deal, which will directly generate some 1,000 new jobs in the depressed South of Italy, would enable Aeritalia to build up a significant presence in the medium term in the civil aviation market. Under the terms of the agreement with Boeing, Aeritalia will manufacture the wing control surfaces of the new medium-range passenger aircraft, the wing trailing edge flaps, and leading edge slats, wing-tips, elevators, the vertical tail rubber and the radome. Moreover, Aeritalia personnel will take part in the overall engineering programme of the new aircraft.

Meanwhile military production remains Aeritalia's mainstay. The Italian company in the shorter term is pointing particularly to its participation with British Aerospace and West German Messerschmitt group in the Panavia programme for the construction of a multi-role, variable-geometry supersonic aircraft, the Tornado MRCA. Aeritalia will manufacture the wings of the 809 aircraft to be built for the Italian Air Force, and it will assemble directly and test fly the 100 aircraft to be delivered to the Italian Air Force.

Approval

Parliamentary approval of the L1,265bn (about £350m) modernisation programme for the Air Force has given the Italian industry some breathing space, especially since in the Tornado programme some 100 Italian companies are participating in one way or other with Aeritalia. Together with the G-222 military transport aircraft, Aeritalia also produces, among others, the G91Y twin-engine single-seater tactical fighter-bomber, and the F104S fighter equipped with the integrated air-to-air Sparrow missile weapon system. In the space sector, Aeritalia chronically lacks

projects. Among them is the Spacelab programme. Aeritalia operates within the framework of a consortium headed by the German ERNO-VFW Fokker group and its space engineering sector designed the module's structure as well as the thermal control system.

But Aeritalia, which employs more than 10,000 of the 32,000 people working in the Italian aerospace industry, is only one aspect of the country's aerospace sector. At the other end of the scale there are a host of smaller concerns both in the public and private sectors. Unlike Aeritalia, however, they tend to specialise in a specific range of products and have the characteristics of Italian medium-size enterprise in their flexibility, market aggressiveness and general profitability.

A field in which these relatively smaller concerns continue to do well, especially in export markets, is that of helicopters. One of the most active companies in this sector is the Agusta group which has won sizeable orders both for helicopters like the Augusta 109, designed specifically for civilian rather than military use. Other active concerns are Aermacchi and Piaggio. Aermacchi is now working on its new MB-339 trainer-fighter to replace its successful MB-328, while Piaggio has updated its standard P-166 light transport aircraft.

None the less, the focal point of the Italian aerospace industry remains Aeritalia. It is the instrument with which the authorities intend to ensure the overall long-term development of the Italian aerospace sector on an international level. The State aerospace group, for its part, is now looking towards the recent collaboration agreement with Boeing in the civil aviation field and to the Tornado MRCA programme on the military side to build up a substantial presence in the international market.

The political awareness of the importance of the aerospace industry, alongside electronics and nuclear engineering, for a country like Italy is certainly there. The big question is whether this awareness can be put into practice, and if the aerospace industry will at long last be given the adequate support which it has so far chronically lacked.

Paul Betts

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 Airbus Industrie

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Long debate over a new fighter

ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S AEROSPACE effort, which underwent dramatic growth in the past decade, is currently marking time while the politicians debate whether to approve the development of a new fighter for the 1980s.

The industry is equally anxious about the prospects of export orders for the Mach 2.3 Kfir combat fighter. After the Americans vetoed sales to South America, hopes hinged on Austria and Taiwan, which showed serious interest but are dragging their heels because of the political implications.

It was politics which created the aerospace industry in Israel and war which gave it the impetus that pushed it into

the front rank of the small producers.

Aviation and aerospace basically means one company, Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), which employs 20,000 people making civil and military aircraft, missiles, radar, communications equipment and a host of interrelated and peripheral items.

Created 25 years ago as a maintenance shop, the past decade has seen it flower into the country's largest military industrial complex meeting a wide range of domestic needs as well as capturing a growing export market.

The success of IAI has fed dozens of smaller plants, some of which have moved from subcontracting to independent production. In the past year the Government has begun to speak in terms of an aerospace industry and the Export Institute now has a special section

actively engaged in promoting aerospace products abroad.

Pride of place goes to the Kfir, or Lion Cub, which has been combat proven in the 1973 Middle East war and is expected to play an important role in the Israel Air Force well into the 1980s.

It was President De Gaulle's arms embargo during and after the 1967 war which convinced Israel that it needed its own combat aircraft. Combining a Mirage body with a General Electric engine, the men at IAI refined and adapted the hybrid until they today argue that the Kfir is essentially a new creation.

However, it was that American powerpack thrusting the jet to supersonic speeds which also grounded the high hopes for major export orders from South America. Ecuador placed an order for 24 aircraft but Washington, voicing apprehension about its effect on the military balance in South America, vetoed the sale. Other Latin American States now look elsewhere.

President Carter recently gave clearance for the sale of 48 aircraft to Taiwan, an order believed worth \$500m, but the Taiwanese appear to have been intimidated by all the publicity which surrounded the deal. IAI has not given up hope that the deal with materialise, but is not banking on it.

Reluctant

Austria has postponed its decision on an order for 24 aircraft for a year. IAI claims its price was considerably lower than that of the Swedish Viggen, the main competitor for Vienna's attention, but say privately that Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky is reluctant to give such a handsome order to a country of whose foreign policies he is so critical.

The disappointment over the failure to win export orders derives not only from the loss of the money which could have pushed the Kfir project into profitability, but also because that money might have made it easier to persuade the Government to approve the plans for a second generation "fighter of the 80s".

The company's designers have already made some detailed plans for the new aircraft, but Government approval is needed for the \$500m-\$600m outlay to produce a prototype of the aircraft which has already been provisionally dubbed the Aryeh, or Lion.

The high costs and high risks involved in such a venture has made the Government hesitate for three years. Some fear the delay already means that the proposed advanced fighter-bomber could be obsolete by the time it comes off the drawing board.

Others are doubtful that Israel has the capacity to create its own original aircraft. It is one thing to build an aircraft based on the stolen blueprints of a proven type like the Mirage, and quite another to do it all unaided.

Mr. Zvi Alon, long-time head of procurement and production at the Defence Ministry,

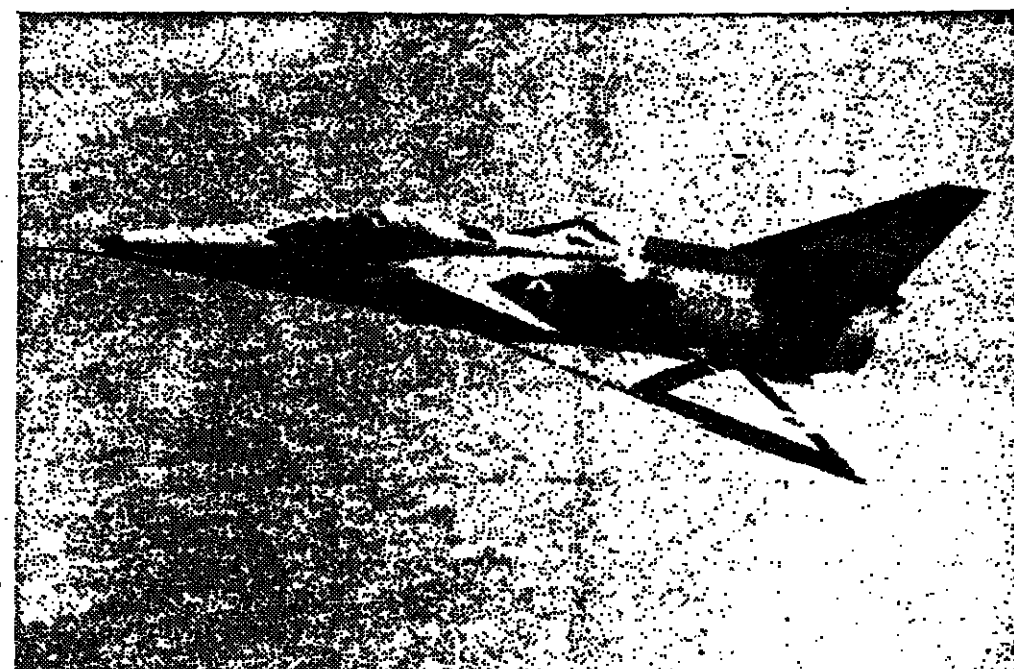
bluntly states that "a small country has to buy the know-how. All the research and development resources in Israel would not be enough to develop such an aircraft from scratch."

Because of fears that the Aryeh would not get the green light, and because of the lack of Kfir exports, IAI tried to get a share in producing the U.S. General Dynamics F-16 fighter which has been promised to the Israel Air Force. General Dynamics opposed any production deal because it fears IAI would apply the technology to go into competition.

The success abroad of other Israeli products which incorporated U.S. technology created this fear. The Shafir air-to-air missile produced by Rafael, the Defence Ministry's armament development authority, led to charges by the Americans that it was a copy of the Sidewinder missile which subsequently competed for the same markets. The Defence Ministry has denied this charge, but American producers' fears do not appear to have been allayed.

But while the combat aircraft is the showpiece of the industry, IAI is far from being a one-product company. Budgeted output this year is £15.2bn (approximately \$613m) including some £28bn (approximately \$335m) in actual deliveries.

Without a single overseas sale of the Kfir, IAI exported \$145m worth of its products last year, and is forecasting \$250m export sales this year. Total export orders on the books top \$400m. The company asserts that its products are today in use in 43 countries, and that it runs training courses in eight languages for its customers' personnel.



Israel's Kfir fighter, whose proven combat ability held out hopes of useful export sales. But results have so far been disappointing.

Soviet

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

airlines in the Eastern bloc. This aircraft is thus one of the mainstays of Soviet civil aviation, and is still in production in various versions.

The Yak-42, seating up to 100 passengers, has been designed by the Yakovlev bureau with the aim of providing a simple, reliable and cheap aircraft for local-service use in remote areas of the Soviet Union in widely differing climatic conditions. It has been said that up to 2,000 of this type of aircraft are needed, especially in the Siberian and Far Eastern regions. It is thus likely to be one of the mainstays of Soviet civil air transport for many years to come, and can be expected to be developed into many different versions.

On the military side, very little detailed information is available as to the volume of production but it is believed to amount to about 1,800 aircraft a year of all types. Certain basic types of combat aircraft, such as the MiG-25 Foxbat, are known to be in quantity production, with a variety of versions already known to the West, including the latest Foxbat-D. More attention is

currently being given, however, to the Sukhoi Su-19 Fencer, a "swing-wing" attack aircraft which is being seen in increasing numbers in the central European region of NATO.

On the bomber side NATO is especially concerned with the Tupolev Backfire, a swing-wing, supersonic aircraft with very long range—estimated at over 5,000 miles—which makes it a formidable addition to the Soviet military inventory, capable of flying out into the North Atlantic and attacking Britain and Europe "through the back door." Unconfirmed reports have suggested that, by early this year, more than 100 Backfire bombers had been delivered to the Soviet Air Force and Navy, with production continuing at a rate of about 30 aircraft a year, with an eventual force of anything between 250 and 400 aircraft believed to be planned.

Service chiefs in both the U.S. and Britain have paid tribute to the potential dangers presented by Backfire, which in their view could become an even greater menace to allied shipping in time of war than the latest Foxbat-D. More attention is

submarine force. It is largely to counter the Backfire that the UK is buying the Air Defence Variant of the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft, which will itself be capable of intercepting at great height and at supersonic speeds any infiltrating enemy aircraft far out over the North Atlantic.

Looking to the future, little is known of current Soviet intentions in both the civil and military fields, but past experience indicates that, while costs are perhaps less of a problem in the Soviet defence arena than they are in the West, the increasing complexities of modern aerospace technology are such that an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary approach to design is adopted wherever possible. Thus any significant new civil and military aircraft developments can be expected to be derivatives of existing types, but there is no lack of innovative thinking in the various design bureaux, and it would surprise no-one in the West to find radical new designs emerging in the 1980s.

The high costs and high risks involved in such a venture has made the Government hesitate for three years. Some fear the delay already means that the proposed advanced fighter-bomber could be obsolete by the time it comes off the drawing board.

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Surprising

Other export items range from radars to electronic fences and include surprising items like the 65 foot Dabur patrol boat and the RBV light armoured reconnaissance vehicle.

The progenitor of IAI was its Bedek maintenance division founded in 1953 and enjoying a steady if unspectacular growth until 1970. Being outstripped by the rapidly expanding manufacturing division, Bedek received a major boost in the late 1970s when it started re-

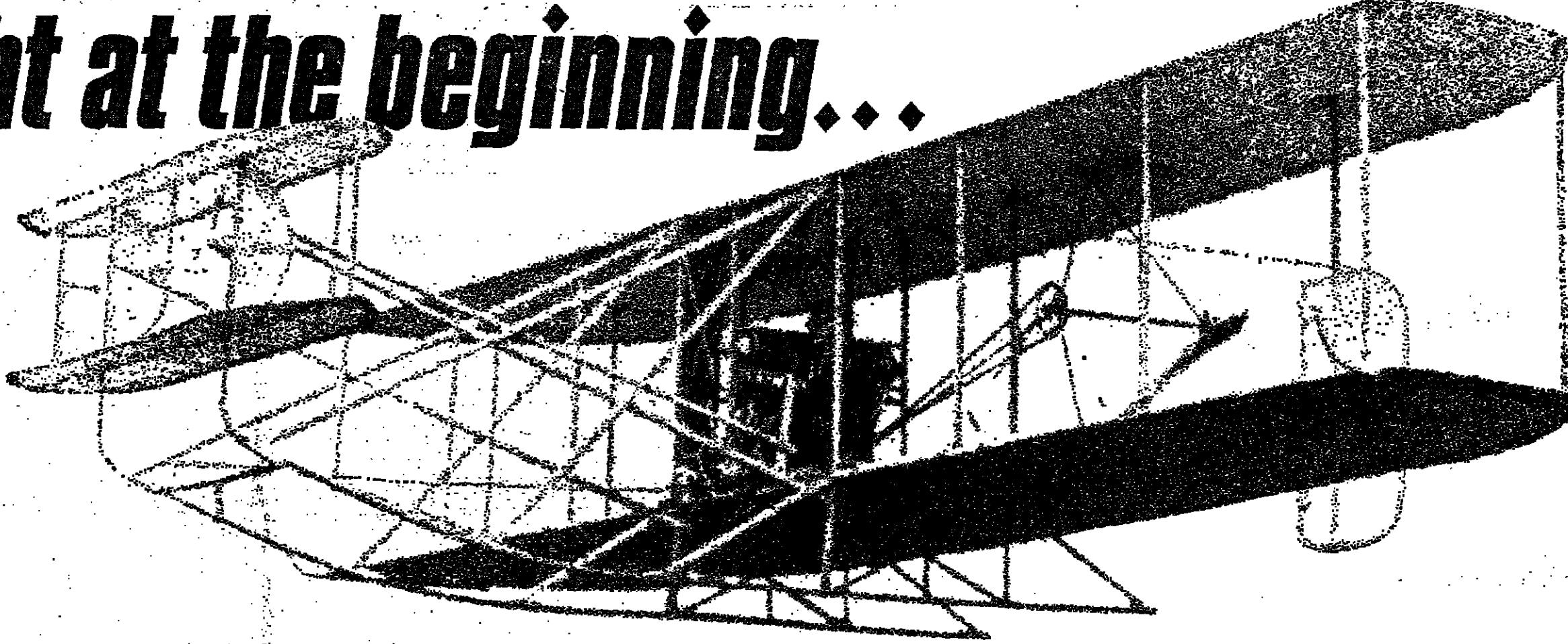
furbishing Boeing 707s and 720s. Today there are 36 Bedek-refurbished Boeings of all types flying around the world. The division also provides maintenance for Boeing aircraft of domestic producers. But he believes that there is room for highly specialised Israeli products being produced at less cost because of the lower price of labour while meeting the most stringent international standards.

One encouraging development he sees is the growing involvement of major non-governmental companies like the giant Koor conglomerate and Cial investments in the aerospace field. With their resources more money will be available for the research and development needed to capitalise on the skills which grew out of the country's military needs.

The prospect of peace in the Middle East has made the industry more aware of the need to export, and even if the goal of a 50-50 balance between military and civilian exports is still a dream, there are few in Israel who doubt that it will be closer if further wars in the region can be avoided.

David Lennon

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company's collaboration in a range of international aircraft projects, involving pods for Rolls-Royce RB.211 engines on the Lockheed TriStar and Boeing 747; the design and manufacture of wings for the Fokker F28 Fellowship; the manufacture of the main landing-gear doors for all 747's and the production of a variety of flight and structural components for the TriStar.

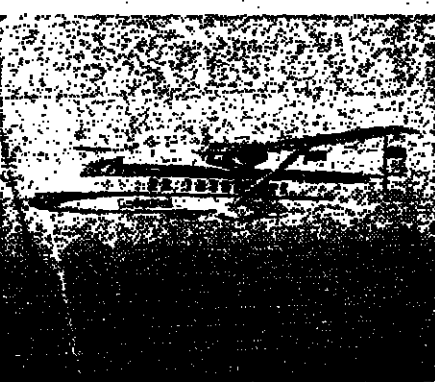
Shorts are proud to be part of today's international aerospace industry. And we acknowledge our debt to the Wright brothers, who started it all three-quarters of a century ago.

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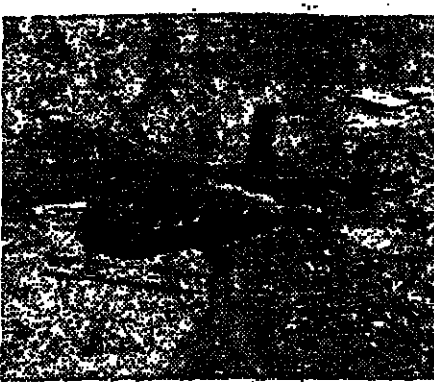
Aircraft and Missiles
WINNERS OF NINE QUEEN'S AWARDS TO INDUSTRY



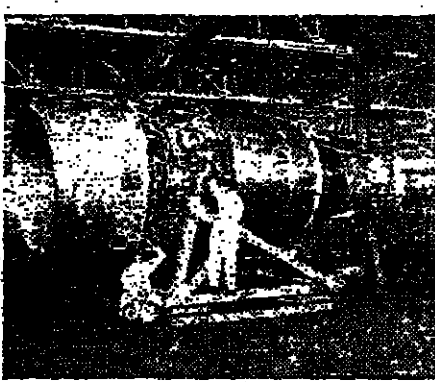
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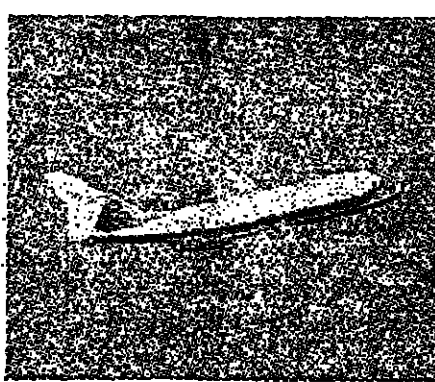
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AEROSPACE XVI

Government decision awaited

SWEDEN

THE FUTURE of the Swedish aircraft industry hinges on an order from the Government to build a new light attack aircraft, currently designated the B3LA. This has been the situation for the past two years, during which injections of Government cash have kept the project ticking over but with the final decision to go ahead with development being constantly postponed. Without this order Saab-Scania cannot fully employ its design team and will almost inevitably have to abandon its capacity to develop and produce its own aircraft.

In January the coalition Cabinet appointed a commission to examine the alternatives to the new aircraft and the economic consequences of a decision not to place the order with Saab-Scania. The commission is due to report this autumn. Saab-Scania has been allocated funds in the 1978-79 budget to continue design work on the B3LA, but shortly after the commission has reported the three non-Socialist parties in the ruling coalition will have to decide whether or not to ask Parliament to commit funds for full-scale development.

The political background is complicated and contentious.

The Social-Democrat opposition, which according to the most recent opinion polls is well placed to return to power in the general election of September, 1979, is against the B3LA project, as is the small Communist party. Within the Government the moderates (Conservatives), who hold the defence portfolio through Mr. Eric Krönmark, have been energetically supporting the industry. Both the Centre Party of Prime Minister Thorbjörn Fälldin and the Liberals contain factions, principally in their youth movements, which would prefer to abandon the B3LA.

Events

In July Mr. Krönmark put the betting on a decision favourable to Saab-Scania at events. He underlined that the Centre Party had still not made up its mind despite remarks by Mr. Fälldin at the party conference which could be interpreted as indicating scepticism about the B3LA. The aggravation of the unemployment threat in an economy which is already facing severe contraction in shipbuilding, steel, textiles and other industries has been advanced as an argument for placing the B3LA order, but Mr. Krönmark has stressed the importance rather for Sweden of maintaining a foothold in an advanced technological field.

In fact for the past two years the Swedes have been facing up to a situation which implies a radical change in their whole defence philosophy. Since the last war Swedish neutrality has been complemented by a defence based on conscription and with sufficient weapons potential to deter a possible aggressor. The credibility of both the defence posture and

the neutrality has been underpinned by a policy of manufacturing key weapons domestically. On the aircraft side the result was Saab-Scania's Draken and Viggen series.

In the post-1973 economic situation, which Sweden shares with other industrialised countries dependent on large energy imports, it has become evident that the country can no longer afford to develop and produce advanced weapons systems on its own, unless it can procure substantial foreign orders for the weapons.

Saab-Scania notched up its biggest foreign orders with the Saab 105 trainer and light attack aircraft. The subsonic B3LA has been designed as a replacement to the 105 with a more sophisticated weapons system. The industry has been arguing that for this very reason it has much greater export potential, particularly in the developing countries and those outside the major power blocs which cannot afford to invest in sophisticated aircraft.

However, even such an ardent supporter of the B3LA project as Mr. Krönmark has acknowledged that it would probably be the last wholly Swedish aircraft to be built. The Swedish aircraft industry cannot expect to continue in its present size and it is fairly evident that any new interceptor to replace the Viggen in the Swedish air force in the 1990s will have to be purchased abroad or at best developed in co-operation with foreign manufacturers.

Mr. Krönmark has already been marking out a fall-back position on these lines which would preserve as much as possible of Saab-Scania's design and development capacity should the B3LA decision go against the industry. Discussions have started with the Italians about the possibility of

a joint venture light attack aircraft project. Aeritalia and AerMacchi have been working on a design known as the AMX which is similar to the B3LA and whose preliminary time schedule coincides with that for the Swedish aircraft.

The Italian project has been stimulated partly by a request from Brazil, but the Italians are understood to be interested in producing a rather more advanced design than that demanded by the Brazilians. They could also supply an engine for a joint Italian-Swedish aircraft. The project has been at least mooted to the Swiss, who are still looking for replacements for their Hawk Hunters and who have in the past co-operated with the Swedes in arms procurement.

Mr. Krönmark's Italian soundings have not been welcomed wholeheartedly by the B3LA's opponents in Sweden. The political consequences of co-operating in weapons manufacture with a NATO country would, it is argued, undermine Swedish neutrality. On the other hand it is obvious that if the preliminary discussions with the Italians could be firm up the export prospects for the aircraft would be considerably enhanced and the sharing of development and component costs could entail significant budget savings.

The B3LA has, however, been designed not primarily as an export product but as an element in a hi-lo defence mix for the Swedish air force alongside Saab-Scania's more powerful, more sophisticated Viggen series. The Viggen will safeguard employment in Saab-Scania's aircraft production division until well into the 1990s. The interceptor version has only just started to come into service with the air force, and finance for a new attack

version, now known as the A-20, is one of the factors under consideration by the current commission on the aircraft industry.

The Viggen's failure so far to win export orders underlines the industry's dilemma of how to maintain a design and development potential when it is limited basically to building series only for the domestic air force. The Viggen is at present contending for orders from Austria, India and Australia. Recently the Carter Administration hinted that it would "react negatively" to the sale of the Viggen to India. As the Swedish aircraft is powered by a modified Pratt and Whitney engine and incorporates other U.S. components, Washington can effectively veto its export. The Swedish Government is contesting the U.S. attitude to deliveries to India.

Replace

The B3LA decision is fundamental to the future of the whole Swedish aerospace business. Domestic missile development is hanging fire until the issue has been clarified. Saab-Scania hopes to replace the 05 and 04 missiles, production of which is now closing down, with a new range for the B3LA. Work on the 372 air-to-air missile, which Saab-Scania has been displaying at international exhibitions, is no more than ticking over.

In the meantime Saab-Scania and Bofors have formed a joint company, Saab-Bofors Missile Corporation, which will be responsible for future Swedish missile development. Bofors is currently delivering to the Swedish army close-range laser-guided air defence missiles which is claimed to be "the best in the world within five kilometres is daylight." A night version is under development.

Saab-Scania's chances of moving into "alternatives" to military aircraft production have been widely ventilated in public debate within Sweden over the future of the industry. The company has developed a promising remote-controlled submarine robot and is into wind power, but most progress has come recently on the civil aircraft side. Sub-contracts have been obtained for delivery of components for McDonnell Douglas' new super 80 airliner, while the British Government's decision to proceed with the 146 short-haul feeder jet could mean orders worth some \$300 million (8133m) for Saab-Scania if financing arrangements can be settled.

Sweden has a foothold in space technology by reason of its membership of the European Space Agency. Through the State-owned Rymddolaget Saab-Scania is involved in computer parts for the Ariane rocket, while Volvo's aero-engine subsidiary, Flyvmotor, is working on its combustion chambers. L. M. Ericsson has received order for components to be used in the satellite itself and the general impression within the telecommunications company is better placed to benefit from space projects than the aircraft manufacturers.

So the Swedish aerospace industry goes on living in a state of uncertainty pending a decision on the B3LA. Whether or not that decision is favourable, it will have to shrink in size. It is also becoming increasingly obvious that its viability depends on greater co-operation than before with foreign aircraft builders—and that raises political issues which the Swedes have only just begun to face up to.

William Dullforce
Nordic Correspondent

More State money needed

NETHERLANDS

THE PAST YEAR has produced a number of disappointments for the Dutch aircraft industry—but also an occasional glimpse of better things to come. The Dutch aircraft manufacturer, Fokker, has now accepted the failure of its ten-year-old merger with the West German Vereinigte Flugtechnische Werke (VFW) group and halted construction of the VFW-614 jet. Britain has opted to build the HS-146 feeder airliner, which will be direct competition for Fokker's F-28.

The good news is that Fokker expects to make a small profit in what is probably its last year of joint operation with VFW, and demand for the European Airbus is finally picking up. A Dutchman stands a good chance of being the first European astronaut, while a large body of opinion wants a stronger Dutch commitment to space research.

Despite notable Dutch success in cross-border mergers in other fields of industry the decision to link up with the VFW group proved an unhappy one. Close Government involvement in the aircraft industry and concern for jobs meant Fokker could not switch work from factories in one country to under-used plant in another even when economic logic dictated.

The failure of the VFW-614—only 16 of the short-haul jets

have been sold compared with a break-even total of 250—put strains on the partnership. It was claimed that the Amsterdam-based sales organisation was not putting as much effort into promoting the 614 as into the Fokker 27 and 28.

The German Government's decision to take a more active interest in the fortunes of VFW now seems certain to lead to the creation of a unified German aircraft industry comprising VFW and Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB). Talks now being held are expected to lead to an outline agreement by the end of the year.

Worried

Fokker is worried it will be left out in the cold and is insisting on at least a blocking share in the new group. It is determined that Holland should retain its position as one of only six Western countries with a self-supporting aircraft industry. Fokker now hopes that after the initial MBB-VFW link-up, more talks will be held aimed at Fokker rejoining the new group as a full partner.

Fokker has been a staunch supporter of a strong European aircraft industry. It sees failure to co-operate in Europe leading to the European companies becoming merely sub-contractors to the big U.S. manufacturers. It was therefore doubly disappointed by the British decision to build the HS-146. Before stepping down in June in the wake of the breakdown of the Fokker-VFW link, executive chairman Mr. Gerrit Klaaytink was scathing of the HS-146's prospects.

The new aircraft not only represents a challenge to the F-28; it signifies a continuation of the belief in purely national aircraft industries in Europe. Fokker has sold 132 F-28s to 35 operators and orders are often only for one or two aircraft. Maintaining a spares network for such small numbers is expensive enough without another new aircraft to fragment the market even further, Fokker reasons.

After the company's worst-ever financial result in 1977 prospects are for a return to a small profit in the current year. The Dueseldorf-based central holding company made a loss of DM157.8m (\$79m) in 1977. It drew on all its free reserves of DM150m to cover most of this loss. Fokker's net result has shown a practically unbroken downward trend from a profit of DM18.2m (\$9m) in 1969 but moving into such a heavy deficit has weakened Fokker's negotiating position in talks with MBB and the German Government.

Increased demand for the previously slow-selling Airbus and the breakthrough in the U.S. with the sale of 23 aircraft to Eastern Airlines are encouraging developments for Fokker. The company has a 6.9 per cent stake in the project, producing moving parts for the Airbus wing in Holland and parts of the fuselage in Germany.

The development of a new version of the Airbus jet, the A-310, would also bring more work to Fokker's plant. Sales of the new aircraft have been very encouraging and orders have been placed by a number of European airlines. Until Britain decides on its role in the new aircraft Fokker's position will remain unclear. The European consortium has opted for a new fuel-saving wing designed by Fokker in Germany.

Fokker has also been tentatively chosen to build the wing but if British Aerospace opts for the Airbus then the construction work would go to Britain, which already builds wings for the B-2 and B-4 Airbus versions. The UK firm might also decide it wants to design a new wing.

This would appear to put Fokker in the position of picking up only what the major partners do not want. But if Fokker were to get the wing contract this would involve considerably more investment on the part of the Dutch Government than has gone into the present versions of the Airbus. Given the competing claims for funds to develop a super F-28 and the Government's plans to cut public spending it is questionable whether the extra funds could be found.

In view of the check-temperary, it is hoped—to Fokker's co-operation with the German aircraft industry. Holland is now looking for closer links with France. The French are apparently willing to take a risk-bearing share in the development of the super F-28 and even have a motor, the CFM-56, which could be modified to go into the new aircraft.

Interesting

On the sales side, France offers interesting prospects for Fokker. It has said it will order 12 F-27s for use as trainers by the French Navy if Holland decides on the Breguet Atlantique as a replacement for its fleet of marine reconnaissance Neptunes. The Dutch Cabinet has not yet decided whether to opt for the Atlantique or for the American Orion, although it has eliminated the British Nimrod.

The French have also hinted they are interested in a marriage version of the F-27 and also in the F-29 as a possible replacement for the ageing Caravelles now flown by Air France and Air Inter.

Fokker's British-born marketing director Mr. Alan Boley hopes to sell 30 aircraft this year. Talks are continuing with Japan's domestic airlines on the sale of an undisclosed number of short-haul airliners. Fokker is offering a stretched version of the Mark 600 F-28 which would seat 100. Its main competitor is British Aerospace's BAe One-Eleven.

Two significant sales breakthroughs have already been achieved in recent months. Fokker sold its first F-28s in Britain with the announcement

in May that Air-Anglia, which already flies F-27s, had bought two of the jets. Fokker also recently sold four aircraft to KLM. This is the first time for many years that Fokker has made a sale to the Dutch national airline, which normally buys American. The four F-28s will go into service with NLM City Hopper, KLM's domestic subsidiary.

Holland could be the first European country to put a man into space following the short-listing of the 31-year-old nuclear physicist Dr. Wubbo Ockels for a space mission. Dr. Ockels' personal triumph is perhaps not surprising considering Holland's strong involvement in research programmes.

The strength of the country's electronics and aircraft industries form a sound basis for space activities, while the spin-off from space technology is seen as a useful stimulus for companies such as Hollandse

Signaalapparaten—a Philips subsidiary—and Fokker. The Netherlands Aerospace Institute (NIVR) is nevertheless worried that not enough is being done now that the initial stages of the space laboratory and the Ariane rocket programmes have passed their peak. Lack of agreement within the European Space Agency (ESA) is delaying decisions on new work.

If Holland were to put the same proportion of its Gross National Product into ESA programmes as other countries it would have a stronger voice in decisions. This would require, however, a doubling in spending, says NIVR, on which Government, industry, users and research institutes are represented. Whether Holland's cost-conscious Government would agree to raise spending now is doubtful.

Charles Batchelor
Amsterdam Correspondent



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The dollar: no time for despair

THE MARKET'S despairing reaction to the latest batch of apparently cosmetic or even merely irrelevant U.S. "defence measures" on behalf of the dollar, coupled with figures showing a still widening trade gap, suggests that chickens and perhaps vultures are flocking home to roost. In the moral tone which market men love to adopt, dealers talk of the effects of years of imprudence working through now that foreign central banks are no longer willing to finance folly without limit. However, the external value of the dollar is not a moral issue; and a different, possibly immoral, analysis points to a very different conclusion.

The simple fact that balance sheets must balance reminds us first that a large flight from the dollar can only occur if someone is willing to finance it; that role has clearly been played willingly or not by foreign central banks. In the 18 months up to March they acquired some \$80bn—far more than the U.S. current account deficit in the period; it follows arithmetically that the capital account was also in large deficit.

Then the dollar rallied for a period, and in the latest episode, to judge from all reports, intervention has been on a relatively modest scale.

The first impact of this dramatic policy change has been on the exchange rate. But this is only the beginning. The new situation will in due course produce changes both in U.S. internal policies and markets, and in capital flows (again, this is arithmetically inevitable). Provided there is not another policy lurch outside the U.S., the dollar's decline could be the

beginning of its salvation.

This view may seem very odd to those who argue, as does the stern Bank Credit Analyst in Montreal, supported by the former U.S. Treasury Secretary, Mr. William Simon, from his holiday home, that the dollar's undoing has all been contrived by the Fed through gross permissiveness and an obsession with low interest rates. Indeed, I have argued rather strongly before now that excessive domestic credit expansion gives a good measure of what is wrong, and that the Fed, which has hardly even heard of this measure, misses the point by basing its policy entirely on the growth of the U.S. money supply.

However, measuring an effect is not necessarily the same as identifying its cause. DCE, as is well known in any country which has had to submit to IMF disciplines, is a measure which adds the whole private sector deficit across the exchanges—current and capital—to the growth of the money supply; but as we have already noted, the private sector can only go into deficit if it is financed from the public sector.

When Britain was in trouble, the Bank of England and the Treasury provided most of this finance by running down the reserves and borrowing from abroad. Where the dollar is concerned, nearly all the finance has been provided by foreign central banks.

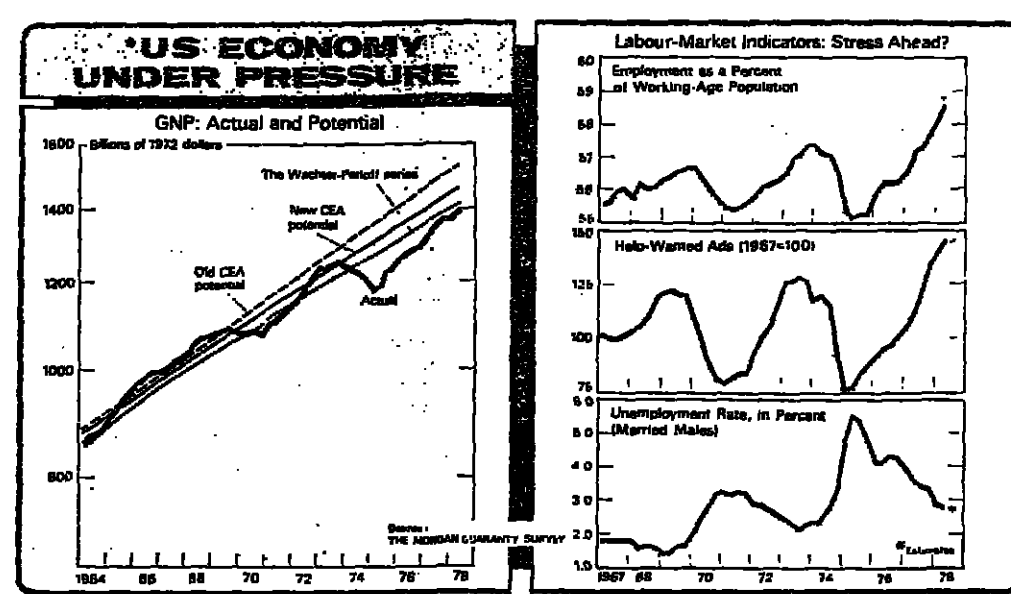
The question, if moral questions must be raised, is how far their role was a purely passive one, mopping up dollars, inadvertently created in the U.S., and how far an active one, holding down currency values and

incidentally financing net exports from their under-employed economies. Intervention, after all, can be seen as a way of financing extra demand without actually going into debt. In addition, Britain is not the only country which has been glad of the opportunity of acquiring reserves for their own sake.

There is no need to believe that the Germans and Japanese were consciously engaged in covert reflation, that the British had turned mercantilist, or even that the Americans were consciously trying to drive down the value of the dollar. One need only remember that central banks have after all had some freedom of choice in their intervention policies to see that it makes some sense to regard intervention as one of the causes of the turmoil surrounding the dollar, rather than simply as one of its effects. The results of turning conventional thought upside down in this way are quite interesting.

One of the great arguments about the dollar in recent months has revolved around the effect of intervention on the U.S. money supply. Central bankers in other countries sometimes like to argue that they are in effect doing the Fed's dirty work for it by mopping up surplus dollars, and transferring the excess money into their own currencies. They are, in effect, importing U.S. monetary inflation (presumably because they would rather import it than stand the consequences in the exchange markets).

U.S. analysts, notably the arch-monetarists at the St. Louis Fed, have always denied this. They point out that foreign intervention makes no differ-



ence to the U.S. money supply, because when the Bank of England or the Bundesbank buy U.S. Treasury securities, the U.S. Treasury has to sell correspondingly fewer securities on the domestic market.

This is in fact a pretty accurate account of how the U.S. Treasury operates; but it does not mean that foreign intervention makes no difference at all within the U.S. Intervention makes no difference to the U.S. money supply, because the U.S. authorities choose that it shall not.

When quantities are in effect fixed, one must look at the price. What intervention has in fact done is to enable the Fed to control the money supply without driving up interest rates. If the U.S. Treasury had to sell \$80bn of additional securities on its domestic markets in the 18 months to

last March, it cannot be doubted that the resultant rise in rates and complaints of crowding out would have rivalled those heard in an earlier period in London.

It is only too easy to draw a moral from this story about pulling chestnuts out of fire: its real interest is technical. It is only because interest rates in New York have been so much lower than they would have been in a clean float that private capital has been able to flow out as well. Intervention has not merely financed U.S. merchandise imports, but has sucked so much money out of the Eurodollar market that U.S. banks have found it profitable to lend some \$22bn to their foreign branches.

Deficit countries are usually borrowers; it is only intervention which has enabled the U.S. private sector to lend as it overspends. Since intervention (whether

active or passive) has had such far-reaching effects until now, the results of cutting it back are bound to be dramatic. The motives for stopping intervention are probably as confused as the motives for intervening.

There is disillusion with the results, as central banks have re-learned the old truth that the more they finance speculation, the more speculation there is, and that they have in effect been creating hot money. Politicians may prefer to inflate their own money supplies in ways which earn them more political credit. There is also some feeling that the Americans should now be left to sort out their own mess.

Many American economic officials probably agree with this assessment privately. First, there are clear signs that the help capital inflows and limit U.S. economy, in its fourth year, interest rate disruption.

of rapid growth, is nearing the limits of capacity. The Council of Economic Advisers has been trimming its own estimates of what is possible, and outside academic measures of productive potential are still lower. Labour market indicators, once women and teenagers are eliminated, show sharply rising pressure, which is being reflected in wages. Some goods— notably in construction—are scarce and rising sharply in price. In short, ordinary demand management suggests that it is time to cool off a bit.

Foreign central banks, which have so assisted the U.S. expansion in recent years, may now help to impose a measure of deflation while sparing the President and his advisers any awkward political decisions. The U.S. Treasury is approaching a heavy funding season in which it may not be able to rely on heavy buying from overseas. Interest rates are likely, initially at any rate, to rise sharply. The process is already beginning, witness yesterday's increases of prime rates.

This rise will assist the turnaround in the private account which must in any case occur in the absence of intervention. For the central banks in the capital markets are like a whole herd of elephants changing sides in an ark. The rest of the animals will in due course lurch the other way, though there may be panicky talk of a capsize. The U.S. Treasury's last "defensive measure," the suspension of Regulation M to facilitate foreign borrowing by U.S. banks, only makes sense as a measure to the help capital inflows and limit U.S. economy, in its fourth year, interest rate disruption.

Sceptics in the market may wonder whether the dollar can possibly stabilise, let alone recover, purely in response to private capital flows. Experience with sterling should give them some reason to suppose that it can; but in any case the trade account may well be deceptive.

The weakness of the dollar has no doubt provoked not only leads and lags in settlements, but also hedge buying. Constant talk of oil import quotas is likely to have inspired some stockpiling. Trade in manufactures—the real heart of the deficit—should now begin to respond to exchange rate movements through import substitution (Volkswagen Rabbits from Pittsburgh, for example) and export opportunities. If net foreign demand rises, deflating domestic demand is less unpalatable.

To be sure, a promising situation can be spoiled by wrong-headed policies. As long as President Carter retains his acute dislike for high interest rates (though the rise would be mainly temporary if allowed to work through), as long as he believes that lectures from Mr. Robert Strauss are an anti-inflation policy; and as long as he is assured by the OECD that U.S. credit creation (deliberate or not) has been perfectly moderate, he will make mistakes. But at least, and for the first time, foreign central banks are allowing financial pressures to argue for deflation, and the domestic economy reinforces these arguments, while the trade situation almost certainly looks worse than it is. This is not the time to despair of the dollar.

Anthony Harris

Schedule D taxpayers

From Mr. G. Scotton

Sir—In his letter (August 29) Mr. J. Andrews criticised the article (August 24) which concerned the possibility of a change in the basis of assessment for Schedule D taxpayers. He stated that it was "simply not true that many self-employed pay tax up to 18 months in arrears," and supported this contention by giving an example of a business which had a financial year-end on April 5. In this example, it was correctly stated that the tax on profits for the year to April 5, 1981, would be payable in two instalments—on January 1 and July 1, 1982.

I feel that Mr. Andrews is seriously under-estimating the intelligence of Schedule D taxpayers, and their advisers, by assuming that they would arrange their affairs so as to have a financial year-end on the worst possible date for tax purposes.

For example tax, in two instalments, on profits of a business with a financial year-end on April 30, 1981, would not become payable until January 1 and July 1, 1983, approximately 24 months in arrears.

I know, from practical experience, that many self-employed do in fact have a financial year-end on April 30, and therefore enjoy a considerable cash flow advantage which would most certainly be lost if they were to be assessed on an actual basis.

G. Scotton,
208, West Burnes Lane,
New Malden, Surrey.

Problems at Brent

From Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe

Sir—In your article (August 18) on Shell's problems with the Brent field, you named two villains, and Mr. Mehta has cast Shell in that role in his letter (August 24). Shell are by no means blameless for their present plight, having wasted five years before starting their search for an NGL separation plant site, and they have thereby forced Mr. Millan into an extremely difficult position. However, far more culpable in my view is the performance of the Health and Safety Executive in the Mossman issue, and this ought to be of national concern. Their writ to serve the farmers, 1977 Public Inquiry totalling 61 pages, of which only 41 pages related to the application in question. In one page on the proposed ethylene cracker, the HSE inspector concluded that there ought to be no unacceptable risk, although he said he had no details of the size or type of plant. He rather curiously added that there would be a residual risk despite safety precautions; there should therefore be additional safety precautions. His colleague said that if the NGL plant were to explode, it would be operated to currently acceptable safety standards (a ubiquitous HSE expression). "There will be no intolerable situation" imposed on local communities. He said that the safety of residents within 1 km of a refrigerated LPG storage tank as Mossman was questionable, and that they ought to be reassured. At the inquiry, he said that this concern did not extend to residents of Aberdeen and Dalgety Bay within 1 km of a refrigerated ethylene tank because, unlike Mossman, Braefoot Bay was not a process plant.

The HSE gave no consideration to hazards beyond the loading jetty, and their evidence constituted six pages of the 428 page Inquiry Report.

Letters to the Editor

On radio hazards, the HSE advised the Secretary of State that if the local Radio Forth transmitter were resited there would be no danger. Any shipborne radio problems could be sorted out by appropriate but undefined safeguards. The Shell report they quoted as a reference analysed only two radio sources in detail and emphasised that many other sources would need investigation before a firm conclusion could be reached. Shipping, particularly naval vessels, was singled out as of potential major significance.

This is the organisation on which Mr. Millan has to rely in judging a planning proposal of which he has said that public safety must be the overriding concern. Its views are similarly sought as authoritative opinion in comparable proposals throughout the UK. On my reading, they are totally unimpressive in this responsibility, and there must be a strong case for a searching review of their function and the way they fulfil it.

J. R. Sutcliffe,
6, Seaside Place, Aberdeen, Fife.

Land prices

From Mr. J. P. Pickering

Sir—In my experience, the farmers who are finding the going tough are those who missed the bus of low land prices of a few years ago. These people, many of them modern whilkids, are caught up in the cost of servicing high loans or ever-increasing rents. Those who were firmly established as owner-occupiers at the right time have nothing to complain about.

Mr. Anthony Rosen (August 24) tries hard to make bricks using milk and vegetables and, of course, fails. The food manufacturers are disturbed, and rightly so, by the fact that the EEC imposes enormous import tariffs on the really important raw materials of their trade. Wheat, barley, maize, sugar, cheese, beef, pork, chicken and bacon all have to pay these import tariffs and there, not milk and vegetables, are the important items of our diet and of the food manufacturing industry.

Mr. Rosen's remedy of paying higher industrial wages is merely to increase inflation overall. No one, not even the farmers themselves, makes any profit by such a policy. I think that Mr. Rosen, like many other farmers, should realise that the role of farming is to serve the public and not the whims of a few farmers. J. P. Pickering,
Orchard Place, Hexham, Northumberland.

Radiation monitor

From Dr. E. R. Turton

Sir—Why cannot David Fishlock and Lisa Wood state clearly that Aldermaston (August 26) does not yet possess a whole body radiation monitor; nor will it be able to use the one it is having installed until 1979?

Why must you print a photograph of such a misleading impression that it is in use at Aldermaston, which is not the case. In fact, your photograph was taken at the Atomic Energy Authority's establishment at Winfrith, though you do not tell your readers this.

I cannot argue that much of this stems from the applications work within the end-use industries. Certainly this must be the case for the key user sectors in packaging and building areas. Moreover, the independent plastics processors have made a major contribution in new product development across the whole field of applications. This is not in the least to minimise the work of the poly-

mer suppliers, but rather to emphasise their role in an up-to-date perspective. This must be to provide support for the processors and end-users—assistance which can range from advice in the development of special grades.

Clearly the polymer supplier will aim at encouraging a greater use of his materials and extend their potential by innovation. But it would be wrong to suggest that the polymer supplier should carry the main burden of applications innovation. This must come from the plastics processing sector and the end-use industries.

It must be recognised, however, that all concerned with new developments are subject to a simple economic truth. The extent to which any innovation is absorbed in the market place depends on the ability and strength of the end-users to apply them—in the case of polymers this means the UK economy as a whole.

In the formative years the UK plastics processing industry has had to survive on a thin crust of markets whose own capacity for development has been sapped by national economic uncertainty. Is it any wonder, therefore, that there are weaknesses in the plastics processing industry? Indeed, might not one argue that its ability to survive and grow at all on this diet is an unrecognised strength.

Restructuring of the market for polymers will only grow from the roots of the market itself. The role of the polymer industry, and in particular the processing sector, must be essentially that of the careful husbandman in tending and nurturing the development. It is surely up to the various Sector Working Parties to concentrate their efforts on ensuring the necessary skills and resources are available.

In a stable and ordered market place polymer capacity planning will look after itself. Sir—In "Men and Matters" (August 21) there was a reference to figures produced by the Labour Party's research department on company donations to the Conservative Party. The General Secretary of the Labour Party in a letter (August 24) referred to these same figures as "research done by the New Statesman". In fact, the source of the figures is an article due to be published in the September issue of "Labour Research," the monthly journal of the Labour Research Department, an independent trade union research centre, founded in 1912.

Whatever the merits of his case, there are none for the example he selects. It has never been apparent why bridges alone in the motorway network should be required to bear charges. We in the provinces who depend on bridges, whether over the Severn, the Tamar, the Forth or, soon, the Humber, would accept the impost more readily if we felt our metropolitan cousins were prepared to share the burden.

From the Managing Director, Fine Tubes Ltd.

Sir—"Lombard" (August 24) argues—I cannot say "makes"—the case for instant decision by Ministerial fiat, in this instance on an increase in the toll charge for the Severn Bridge.

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Today's Events

GENERAL. Statement expected in Paris by M. Jean-Paul Paraire, head of Peugeot-Citroen, on his company's plans for Chrysler's operations. Meeting of Trades Union Congress general council, Metropole Hotel, Brighton. Announcement by Mr. A. Wedgwood Benn, Energy Secretary, on new energy course by Open University. Cereals management committee of Common Market Commission to consider export tenders for wheat from Kenya. OFFICIAL STATISTICS. Publication of Energy Trends by Department of Energy. COMPANY RESULTS. Final dividends: Crouch Group, Linford Holdings, Sobranie Holdings. Interim dividends: BBA Group, Boustead, Bridgeview, Investment Trust, Church and Co., Doranda Holdings, Ladbroke Group, John Laker, Macfarlane Group (Glanmoran), Matthews, Wickham Holdings, Miconcrete (Holdings), Scottish Agricultural Industries, Small (John C.) and Tidmas. COMPANY MEETINGS. CII Industrial, Carlton Tower Hotel, SW. 12, Caird (Dundee), Chamber of Commerce Buildings, Dundee, 12. Initial Services, Connaught Rooms, WC. 12. Macdonald Martin Distilleries, Queen's Dock, Leith, 12. Sylene, Post House Hotel, Bramhope, 2.30. Vinten, Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds, 12.

Mr. Margaret Thatcher, Con-

Sir—In attributing the meagre level of Japanese imports from the UK to the inadequate export efforts of British industry, neither of your correspondents, Messrs. Miyoshi and Newman, have explained just why in that case highly aggressive and successful exporters like the Americans, Germans, etc., have similarly failed to make a satisfactory impact in Japan.

The relevant trade deficits with Japan of some leading industrial countries are as follows:—

	£m. 1977 (1976)	Source
U.S.	7,321 (4,054)	OECD
France	445 (423)	OECD
W. Germany	1,238 (1,015)	OECD
Netherlands	1,007 (824)	OECD
UK	991 (555)	OECD

Indeed, Britain's record compares favourably with that of other industrialised countries. Using dollar figures, Britain has maintained her percentage share of Japan's imports at 1.4 per cent over the period 1974 to 1977 whereas that of West Germany has dropped from 2.3 per cent to 2.1 per cent and of the U.S. from 20.4 per cent to 17.5 per cent. Japan's own trade figures show that British exports to Japan are among those showing the greatest growth in the last half of this year, rising by 14.3 per cent in ton terms compared with 7.6 per cent for West Germany and a drop of 10.2 per cent for the U.S.

Mr. Nichols, in his letter, suggested a number of factors which caused frustration to our exporters. Many of these stem from the days not so long past, when Japanese industry enjoyed considerable protection. Japanese business leaders have acknowledged that Japan has to change her industrial structure to meet the new international economic environment. Your newspaper, for instance, has published reports of a crash programme to increase imports. We hope that these and other measures will promote a generous growth in imports and not just lead to the stockpiling of raw materials.

Mr. Newman's description of the crucial need to cultivate long-term business relations and understandings in Japan is correct. It is a pity that he did not mention that there has been for many years in Tokyo and Osaka a large body of expatriate British businessmen from our major concerns and the UK trade companies, working to this very end.

Although Mr. Miyoshi indicates that in his opinion short-term visits to Japan are inadequate, they are not when new innovation is the keynote, for I recall a planned operation which did find a partner in two weeks' travel, and draft agreements were exchanged for business valued at 5,000,000 yen.

The solution to the trade problem needs action from both sides. We each know a great deal about the other's basic industrial policy. Can we not get together for positive co-operation to achieve our objectives? J. C. Edwards,
Stechford, Birmingham.

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An ice-cream millionaire turns his talents to the print shop

BY TONY FRANCE

PEOPLE WHO buy printed material from a High Street print shop, whether on a domestic or business scale, are probably unaware of a revolution that has taken place in this part of the printing industry in both technology and management.

There have been few changes in what might be called the basic printing method, letterpress, since the days of Caxton. This applies particularly to the methods used in the small print shop. Because little change took place for some 500 years, printing has become a highly conservative industry, with a strong resistance to new ideas.

Attempts to introduce new technology in the newspaper industry have caused considerable problems. The impact on the small printer has been just as great, though less spectacular, and has therefore passed largely unnoticed.

For the small printer, refusal to adopt new technology has proved suicidal. Shops which used out of date methods found themselves under threat from those using the new processes, and went bankrupt.

The new methods being used by successful small printers are not, in fact, so very new—offset litho printing has been around for a long time in different forms, and electrostatic copying machines are now in use in most offices.

In recent years both techniques have been considerably refined, while the skill needed to produce good quality print has been greatly reduced. These factors, coupled with a new approach to establishing print shops, has brought about a revolution behind the scenes in the High Street printers.

It all started in 1971 when five offset litho-based print shops were opened in the North East, starting in Newcastle-upon-

Tyne. The company concerned, Prontaprint, was launched by a man with considerable experience of franchise operations.

Mr. Edwin Thirlwell made his first million in the ice cream business, and saw no reason why the successful franchising methods he used could not be used equally well in the printing business.

He considers that the essence of success is a full and continuing relationship with each licensee, starting with a training course and continuing with marketing and publicity support, quality control, assistance with staff and supply of equipment and materials.

Franchise

There are now some 30 shops in the Prontaprint chain, and in the seven years of operation there is no record of a shop having to close through failure, Mr. Thirlwell claims.

An interesting aspect of the business is that none of the existing licensees were previously printers. People taking a Prontaprint franchise have come from a variety of commercial, managerial and professional backgrounds.

The company says the idea generally appeals to the "business executive" type wanting to go into business on their own. Typical operators include an architect, a chef, and a newspaper advertisement manager.

Investment required is around £10,000 to open a Prontaprint shop. This has allowed the company to expand rapidly without having to rely on generating its own funding to open new shops. The holder of the franchise deals with the retail management problems, as the owner and operator of the print shop. As the company relies on a continuing 10 per cent royalty on sales, it too has

a strong vested interest in ensuring each shop continues to increase its business.

Starting a new business, possibly for the first time, is a period of great stress and mental pressure, but in buying a Prontaprint franchise the company says that much of this is relieved by the standard systems, training, marketing and management back-up available to the licensee.

The town of interest is visited with the prospective licensee so that the business potential of the area can be assessed and suitable premises found. The overall design and appearance of the shop is standardised to make them instantly recognisable.

The name takes up to 40 per cent of the window area, and a "point of sale" feature is a cartoon character printer embodying the "fast and friendly" slogan of the company. Customers are offered free coffee while they wait. The "payment on collection" terms are displayed on the till fronts, which is a feature of the Prontaprint system. By insisting on payment at the time of collection the company says most of the problems associated with cash flow are eliminated, and it helps to maintain a competitive price structure.

Based on the premise that print customers are not all highly skilled print buyers, but do need to have an accurate price and a guaranteed time when the job will be ready, the shops work from a standardised price list.

Typical jobs include letterheads, business cards, accounting stationery, quantity survey reports, right through to collated 500-page documents. All can be accurately costed and timed. Prontaprint lists

over 200 typical jobs to assist the shop operator.

Where necessary, licensees can generally be introduced to sources of finance to supplement their own capital. This usually takes the form of a bank loan and/or leasing or hire purchase of the necessary equipment. But all licensees are required to have a substantial amount of their own capital invested in the business. This is considered an essential element for success of the operation.

The licensee is given a four-week training course. The first two weeks cover all aspects of running a Prontaprint shop from basic product knowledge in preparation of artwork, simple offset printing, customer relations, product knowledge, recruitment of staff, basic accounting, sales promotion, use of ancillary equipment, etc.

The final two weeks are spent in an operating shop in gain practical experience. A training manual is supplied for use during the course, and is retained for future reference.

Advice and assistance are given with the purchase of equipment, and a package of items including till rolls, point of sale material, standard invoice sets, an accounting kit and standard promotional artwork is also supplied.

Launch

Once the shop is fitted out and equipped, a launch campaign is organised, after a settling-in period, and is paid for by Prontaprint. The company has regional directors to keep in touch with licensees, and provide help and advice.

For example, the costs of basic development in Europe could well result in print jobs being created in Birmingham for printing in Düsseldorf by the early '80s.

eroded by cost and overhead increases.

Prontaprint obtains group rates on paper, ink and other materials, and group discounts on equipment, motor vehicles, insurance and health schemes etc. As well as legal and management advice, other back-up services include relief managers for holidays and illness. At present 5 per cent of the royalty income is used for promotional activities, such as Yellow Page advertising and other marketing aids.

By the end of this year there should be 75 shops operating in the UK, with total sales toping the £2m mark—a substantial turnover in jobbing printing. Target for the chain is 400 shops.

Part of the value of such a network is that it enables customers to prepare artwork in one place and then print it in the shop nearest the distribution point. One Fleet Street public relations consultancy produces finished artwork for a City firm's house magazine. This is sent by rail ("Red Star") to Darlington and 500 copies are printed in the local Prontaprint shop for distribution in the plant's workforce just down the road at Newton Aycliffe.

Benefits claimed include saving in transit costs (flat artwork rather than bulk copies) speed of production—two colours in two days—and a cost saving of 60 per cent compared with printers serving the Fleet Street area.

Plans are already well advanced to take Prontaprint into Europe. A pilot operation is already running in Australia, and is planned for the Middle East. The company says that development in Europe could well result in print jobs being created in Birmingham for printing in Düsseldorf by the early '80s.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY

6½% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of September 15, 1967, between The Procter & Gamble International Company, The Procter & Gamble Company, as Guarantor, and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Trustee, \$1,645,000 principal amount of the above Debentures has been selected by lot for redemption on September 15, 1978, through operation of the Sinking Fund, at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest thereon to said redemption date. The numbers of the said Debentures designated for redemption are as follows:

1	1785	2975	4859	6180	7750	9240	10428	11854	13221	14406	15887	17353	18234	20183	22066	22972
2	1789	2981	4869	6184	7751	9241	10432	11857	13222	14407	15888	17354	18235	20184	22067	22973
3	1793	2985	4873	6188	7755	9245	10436	11861	13226	14411	15892	17358	18239	20188	22071	22977
4	1797	2989	4877	6192	7759	9249	10440	11865	13230	14415	15896	17362	18243	20192	22075	22981
5	1801	2993	4881	6196	7763	9253	10444	11869	13234	14419	15900	17366	18247	20196	22079	22985
6	1805	2997	4885	6200	7767	9257	10448	11873	13238	14423	15904	17370	18251	20200	22083	22989
7	1809	3001	4889	6204	7771	9261	10452	11877	13242	14427	15908	17374	18255	20204	22087	22993
8	1813	3005	4893	6208	7775	9265	10456	11881	13246	14431	15912	17378	18259	20208	22091	22997
9	1817	3009	4897	6212	7779	9269	10460	11885	13250	14435	15916	17382	18263	20212	22095	23001
10	1821	3013	4901	6216	7783	9273	10464	11889	13254	14439	15920	17386	18267	20216	22099	23005
11	1825	3017	4905	6220	7787	9277	10468	11893	13258	14443	15924	17390	18271	20220	22103	23009
12	1829	3021	4909	6224	7791	9281	10472	11897	13262	14447	15928	17394	18275	20224	22107	23013
13	1833	3025	4913	6228	7795	9285	10476	11901	13266	14451	15932	17398	18279	20228	22111	23017
14	1837	3029	4917	6232	7799	9289	10480	11905	13270	14455	15936	17402	18283	20232	22115	23021
15	1841	3033	4921	6236	7803	9293	10484	11909	13274	14459	15940	17406	18287	20236	22119	23025
16	1845	3037	4925	6240	7807	9297	10488	11913	13278	14463	15944	17410	18291	20240	22123	23029
17	1849	3041	4929	6244	7811	9301	10492	11917	13282	14467	15948	17414	18295	20244	22127	23033
18	1853	3045	4933	6248	7815	9305	10496	11921	13286	14471	15952	17418	18299	20248	22131	23037
19	1857	3049	4937	6252	7819	9309	10500	11925	13290	14475	15956	17422	18303	20252	22135	23041
20	1861	3053	4941	6256	7823	9313	10504	11929	13294	14479	15960	17426	18307	20256	22139	23045
21	1865	3057	4945	6260	7827	9317	10508	11933	13298	14483	15964	17430	18311	20260	22143	23049
22	1869	3061	4949	6264	7831	9321	10512	11937	13302	14487	15968	17434	18315	20264	22147	23053
23	1873	3065	4953	6268	7835	9325	10516	11941	13306	14491	15972	17438	18319	20268	22151	23057
24	1877	3069	4957	6272	7839	9329	10520	11945	13310	14495	15976	17442	18323	20272	22155	23061
25	1881	3073	4961	6276	7843	9333	10524	11949	13314	14499	15980	17446	18327	20276	22159	23065
26	1885	3077	4965	6280	7847	9337	10528	11953	13318	14503	15984	17450	18331	20280	22163	23069
27	1889	3081	4969	6284	7851	9341	10532	11957	13322	14507	15988	17454	18335	20284	22167	23073
28	1893	3085	4973	6288	7855	9345	10536	11961	13326	14511	15992	17458	18339	20288	22171	23077
29	1897	3089	4977	6292	7859	9349	10540	11965	13330	14515	15996	17462	18343	20292	22175	23081
30	1901	3093	4981	6296	7863	9353	10544	11969	13334	14519	15999	17466	18347	20296	22179	23085
31	1905	3097	4985	6300	7867	9357	10548	11973	13338	14523	16003	17470	18351	20300	22183	23089
32	1909	3101	4989	6304	7871	9361	10552	11977	13342	14527	16007	17474	18355	20304	22187	23093
33	1913	3105	4993	6308	7875	9365	10556	11981	13346	14531	16011	17478	18359	20308	22191	23097
34	1917	3109	4997	6312	7879	9369	10560	11985	13350	14535	16015	17482	18363	20312	22195	23101
35	1921	3113	5001	6316	7883	9373	10564	11989	13354	14539	16019	17486	18367	20316	22199	23105
36	1925	3117	5005	6320	7887	9377	10568	11993	13358	14543	16023	17490	18371	20320	22203	23109
37	1929	3121	5009	6324	7891	9381	10572	11997	13362	14547	16027	17494	18375	20324	22207	23113
38	1933	3125	5013	6328	7895	9385	10576	12001	13366	14551	16031	17498	18379	20328	22211	23117
39	1937	3129	5017	6332	7899	9389	10580	12005	13370	14555	16035	17502	18383	20332	22215	23121
40	1941	3133	5021	6336	7903	9393	10584	12009	13374	14559	16039	17506	18387	20336	22219	23125
41	1945	3137	5025	6340	7907	9397	10588	12013	13378	14563	16043	17510	18391	20340	22223	23129
42	1949	3141	5029	6344	7911	9401	10592	12017	13382	14567	16047	17514	18395	20344	22227	23133
43	1953	3145	5033	6348	7915	9405	10596	12021	13386	14571	16051	17518	18399	20348	22231	23137
44	1957	3149	5037	6352	7919	9409	10600	12025	13390	14575	16055	17522	18403	20352	22235	23141
45	1961	3153	5041	6356	7923	9413	10604	12029	13394	14579	16059	17526	18407	20356	22239	23145
46	1965	3157	5045	6360	7927	9417	10608	12033	13398	14583	16063	17530	18411	20360	22243	23149
47	1969	3161	5049	6364	7931	9421	10612	12037	13402	14587	16067	17534	18415	20364	22247	23153
48	1973	3165	5053	6368	7935	9425	10616	12041	13406	14591	16071	17538	18419	20368	22251	23157
49	1977	3169	5057	6372	7939	9429	10620	12045	13410	14595	16075	17542	18423	20372	22255	23161
50	1981	3173	5061	6376	7943	9433	10624	12049	13414	14599	16079	17546	18427	20376	22259	23165
51	1985	3177	5065	6380	7947	9437	10628	12053	13418	14603	16083	17550	18431	20380	22263	23169
52	1989	3181	5069	6384	7951	9441	10632	12057	13422	14607	16087	17554	18435	20384	22267	23173
53	1993	3185	5073	6388	7955	9445	10636	12061	13426	14611	16091	17558	18439	20388	22271	23177
54	1997	3189	5077	6392	7959	9449	10640	12065	13430	14615	16095	17562	18443	20392	22275	23181
55	2001	3193	5081	6396	7963	9453	10644	12069	13434	14619	16099	17566	18447	20396	22279	23185
56	2005	3197	5085	6400	7967	9457	10648	12073	13438	14623	16103	17570	18451	20400	22283	23189
57	2009	3201	5089	6404	7971	9461	10652	12077	13442	14627	16107	17574	18455	20404	22287	23193
58	2013	3205	5093	6408	7975	9465	10656	12081	13446	14631	16111	17578	18459	20408	22291	23197
59	2017	3209	5097	6412	7979	9469	10660	12085	13450	14635	16115	17582	18463	20412	22295	23201
60	2021	3213	5101	6416	7983	9473	10664	12089	13454	14639	16119	17586	18467	20416	22299	23205
61	2025	3217	5105	6420	7987	9477	10668	12093	13458	14643	16123	17590	18471	20420	22303	23209
62	2029	3221	5109	6424	7991	9481	10672	12097	13462	14647	16127	17594	18475	20424	22307	23213
63	2033	3225	5113	6428	7995	9485	10676	12101	13466	14651	16131	17598	18479	20428	22311	23217
64	2037	3229	5117	6432	7999	9489	10680	12105	13470	14655	16135	17602	18483	20432	22315	23221
65	2041	3233	5121	6436	8003	9493	10684	12109	13474	14659	16139	17606	18487	20436	22319	23225
66	2045	3237	5125	6440	8007	9497	10688	12113	13478	14663	16143	17610	18491	20440	22323	23229
67	2049	3241	5129	6444	8011	9501	10692	12117	13482	14667	16147	17614	18495	20444	22327	23233
68	2053	3245	5133	6448	8015	9505	10696	12121	13486	14671	16151	17618	18499	20448	22331	23237
69	2057	3249	5137	6452	8019	9509	10700	12125	13490	14675	16155	17622	18503	20452	22335	23241
70	2061	3253	5141	6456	8023	9513	10704	12129	13494	14679	16159	17626	18507	20456	22339	23245
71	2065	3257	5145	6460	8027	9517	10708	12133	13498	14683	16163	17630	18511	20460	22343	23249
72	2069	3261	5149	6464	8031	9521	10712	12137	13502	14687	16167	17634	18515	20464	22347	23253
73	2073	3265	5153	6468	8035	9525	10716	12141	13506	14691	16171	17638	18519	20468	22351	23257
74	2077	3269	5157	6472	8039	9529	10720	12145	13510	14695	16175	17642	18523	20472	22355	23261
75	2081	3273	5161	6476	8043	9533	10724	12149	13514	14699	16179	17646	18527	20476	22359	23265
76	2085</															

Sea-bed mining cross-currents

BY PAUL CHEESERIGHT

● The second covers financial arrangements for mining involving charges on the private sector companies and the payments they would have to make to an International Sea-bed Authority.

● The third deals with this Authority—how it should be composed and what procedures should be adopted in the making of decisions to control the exploitation of the sea-bed.

A reiteration of demands that this Authority should exercise tight control over mining came yesterday in Manila, where developing countries are convening the Intergovernmental Law Association argued that uncontrolled mining of the sea-bed would bring metal prices down.

The U.S. has meanwhile maintained that there is no treaty and no customary international law which prevents a state or its nationals from using the resources of the sea-bed outside areas of national jurisdiction at the present time.

Mr. Elliot Richardson, the U.S. chief negotiator at the Law of the Sea Conference, denied that legislation currently before Congress was either contrary to international law or damaging to the Conference.

He was responding to charges made by Fiji, on behalf of the developing countries, that as the resources of the sea-bed were the heritage of mankind they were not subject to appropriation or the exercise of national sovereignty.

Mr. Richardson refused to agree to defer mining until an international treaty had been agreed in face of the need for minerals and the need also to proceed with research and development. But a spokesman later pointed out that it would be several years before any permits for commercial mining were granted.

Net Income	\$ 76.1	\$ 81.5	\$ 211.8	\$ 29.4
Earnings per Common Share:				
Primary	\$ 2.09	\$ 2.21	\$ 5.80	\$ 6.22

The Marketing Scene

Skol tonic for Masius

IN THE FIRST significant account change of what could prove a record autumn for hirings and firings, Allied Breweries has switched its £2m Skol lager account out of BBDO and into D'Arcy-MacManus and Masius, writes Michael Thompson-Neel.

Masius has had a quiet year to date, but joint managing director Mike Johnson says the Skol gale has proved an "enormous boost" to morale and that the agency is on target for 1978 billings of around £50m.

Things are hotting up in larger. Total MEAL-type spending on Skol in the 12 months to March 31 was £285,000 (MEAL does not include advertising) compared with Harp's £260,200 via Ayr Barker Hegemann, Carlberg's £1,407,700 via McCann-Erickson, Carlberg's £297,500 via KMP, and Heineken's £1,255,600 via Collett Dickinson Pearce.

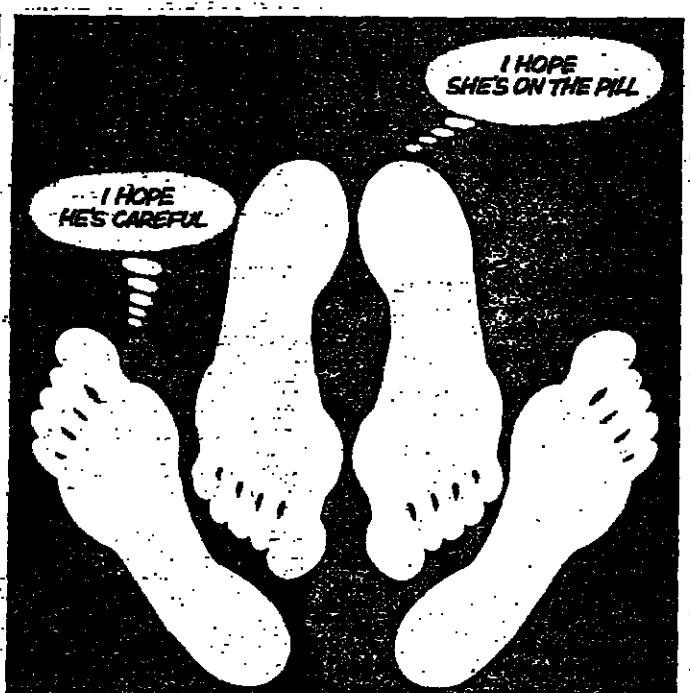
Masius, formerly known as the grocers of St. James's Square, will next year handle no less than an estimated £2m worth of drink advertising, including

Barbican, Harveys, Grants of St. James, VP wines and Allen's other larger brand, Lowenbrau, now in test in the South.

The Skol loss is particularly painful for BBDO. Although the account is already worth £2m, significant increases in advertising expenditure are expected later on.

● **KELLOGG'S IS BANKING** £750,000 on the launch, starting tomorrow, of Kellogg's Extra, its first-ever hot cereal. It marks the company's entry into the £3m instant hot oat cereal market. By next year Kellogg's aims to capture 25 per cent of a market at present led by Lyons' Ready Brek. Kellogg's Extra is the company's third national product launch this year, following Fudge Mix and Cracklin' Bran. Advertising is being handled by Leo Burnett, which is Kellogg's main agency, which is TWA.

● **DUNLOP SEMTEX** (Retail Division) has appointed Dorland Advertising. The account is expected to bill more than £350,000 next year. Dorland has won 14 new accounts this year, including Liptons, Caterpillar and Toshiba. Semtex was previously with Roe Downson (Gloucesters).



Some help! Did you know? If you're a man, you can get a free copy of the book 'The Health Education Council's Guide to Contraception' by simply filling in the coupon and sending it to the publisher. The book is available in paperback for 95p and in hardcover for £1.95. It contains all the latest information on contraception, including the new pill, the IUD, and the condom. It is written in a simple, easy-to-understand style and is suitable for both men and women. It is available from all good bookshops and libraries.

● **Marketing techniques exist:** everyone is affected by them to some degree. It is illogical and inefficient not to make use of those which can be adapted to the social marketing of contraception. So says Wendy Smith, author of "Campaigning for Choices," a review of the role of media-based publicity in providing contraception which the Family Planning Association published this week (21).

According to the author, "Responsible publicity for birth control, using everyday language and putting contraception into the context of sex, love and family security, should be allowed on TV, radio and in all newspapers—a delicate reference, presumably, to the absurd cynicism with which some newspapers have in the past refused to carry family planning ads."

The report cites two major barriers. First, the "battering pseudo-factiousness of the IBA, London Transport and others" whose restrictions prevent advertisers from effectively using the mass media. Second, the campaigns themselves, which in the past have often wasted money and effort "simply because of the sponsors' naively, distaste for commercialism or plain lack of adequate funds."

There is absolutely no room for fastidiousness in the author's book. According to her, the most successful campaigns of the past were those which related directly to the everyday fundamentals of sex, love, family and security.

The two-pulse-of-foot advertisement shown here was part of a £75,000 Health Education Council campaign run last year via Saatchi and Saatchi—more accurately, run partly for both the Mirror and the Sun refused to have any truck with it, even when offered two alternative visual treatments. However, it did appear in a range of teen magazines, some of them owned by IPC.

One of the case studies in the report looks at the HEC's £10,000 cinema campaign promoting awareness of contraception services available under the NHS. The 45-second ad was shown in 1,400 cinemas in 1975-76. The cinema was chosen as the best medium for communicating with a young, sexually active, mainly uneducated audience. This campaign and its attendant evaluation, says the FPA, was arguably the best designed and funded of its kind. As it happens, tests indicated that the campaign had no effect on awareness of NHS contraceptive services, though the awareness level seems to have been remarkably high to start with. M.T.N.

INDUSTRIAL MARKETING

Building a disposable business

UNDEFATIGABLE trades unionists may be mortified to learn that employers are not legally required to supply toilet paper for their workers. They put significant resources and must, however, under Acts of 1961 and 1963, provide "soap and clean towels or other means of cleaning and drying." With the soap and towels must go a legally specified number of wash basins: approximately one per 10 male personnel, more for females (a fine example of superabundant detail inadvertently leading to discriminatory legislation).

The celebrated Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAWA) demands that every working environment should be as far as is reasonably practical, safe and without risks to health. HASAWA's minutiae insist, for example, that all floors should be cleaned at least once a week.

In spite of all this concerned legislation, a small survey carried out last year by the Kimberly-Clark's Industrial Division suggested that a massive 41 per cent of U.K. office and factory workers are dissatisfied with the standards of hygiene and cleanliness at work, and 46 per cent feel that the main causes of complaint rest in the washroom: dirty washbasins and toilet seats and—despite the legislation—unacceptable soap and hand drying facilities. Thus it was less than astonishing that the same survey showed that 21 per cent of factory workers believe their bosses to be wholly unconcerned about employee welfare in these areas.

It was against this legislative and attitudinal background that Kimberly-Clark's Industrial Division began, some two years ago, to plan its first major national advertising campaign.

KC is the leading UK manufacturer of disposable hygiene products, and has been supplying

Hi-Dri disposable paper towels to industry since the 1930s. It was not, however, until the 1960s that the parent company put significant resources and thrust into its industrial marketing operation. To its Hi-Dri towel range were added Kleenex hospital products, toilet tissue, and Kleenwipes disposable wipers. The result was to increase last decade its volume sales to

The Assessment of Industrial analyses showed that a tight schedule of six national magazines, including the Sunday Express, would reach approximately 80 per cent of target at a gross insertion cost of £8,800 and with significantly reduced production costs. In addition to which, the use of major national media would generate spin-off advantages in terms both of sales force

the first burst of the campaign showed this awareness level to have been quadrupled. More to the point in a less than booming economy with unemployment—which directly reduces the usage of KC's products at work—running at over 10m throughout the year, KC industrial's 1977 sales showed substantial growth above the 1976 record levels. Hardly surprising then that the national Press campaign has been continued and developed along lines gleaned from continuous research and testing.

All of which sounds like an unmitigated paean of praise to the use of national consumer—publications for major industrial advertising. It must therefore be stressed that unlike some other leading industrial marketing companies (Dixons and Colt for example), KC used trade and technical publications almost exclusively, and extremely successfully for over a decade; and these publications are still used to convey, most cost-effectively, specific communications to particular audiences.

Finally, it is incumbent upon the advertising agency to mention that the use of national media for industrial advertising can only make sense within the context of a clearly defined total marketing and communications strategy; that at least a morsel of KC Industrial Division's success has been due to its exceptionally effective sales force, and even, perhaps, to other recent new product launches, such as the development of the right disposable products to meet the ever more stringent demands of its customers, their workers, and last but not nowadays least, their lawyers!

Winston Fletcher is managing director of Fletcher Shelton Delaney.

By comparison, computer

Approximately 2,000 trade and technical magazines are published in the UK and 750 of them could have made a case for carrying KC's 1978 advertising to some peripheral part of that wide target audience. A cost-per-thousand analysis cut the schedule to those 60 publications which cover the majority of buyers, specifiers and influencers.

Each of the KC advertisements used was therefore pre-tested and amended as necessary in the light of the findings. Before the campaign began an awareness check showed that only 4 per cent of the target market associated KC with Health and Hygiene at Work. Follow-up research after

the familiar (traditionally English) Findus has developed the Something Special range, which was worth £4m at msp in 1977; it consists of lasagne, cannelloni, rigatoni, chicken Espagnole (all somewhat Anglicised), while other recent new products include much more prosaic meats such as toad in the hole, Cornish pasties and cottage pie. They sell because they are convenient as well as of good quality.

Another ambitious development is that of Findus Calorie Counters. Findus carried out three years of consumer research into slimming and concluded that there was a large potential market: 50 per cent of adults are over-weight and 25 per cent claim that they do something to slim.

Findus continually seeks many sources for new ideas. It operates in 40 countries and makes a point of having an up-to-date dossier on new frozen food products all over the world. Thus it felt that the French liking for crepes could be adapted to the UK and launched in 1973 a range of Crispy Pancakes which in 1977 had a sales volume of £5m at msp.

In general there has been a search for new and different prepared foods of all kinds; the trick, as usual, is to find the right balance between the different (possibly foreign) and

than the catering area and, if the initial results are satisfactory, find it difficult to launch any new product development programme will follow. Findus, which had 15 per cent of frozen food retail sales in 1977, has also paid much attention to new products and claims that as much as a fifth of its current turnover is in products launched during the past five years. The activity has undoubtedly been helped by the retail trade which has increased enormously its reneing and launching new products into test market or nationally.

Against this background, Findus has organised itself by having, under the marketing director, a new products manager responsible for development activity, while the existing brands' marketing manager looks after current business. The former, Peter Trimmings, has the task of seeking and evaluating new opportunities, carrying out the relevant planning, developing the products, implementing the planning and launching new products into test market or nationally.

By comparison, computer

New products as a way of life

BY PETER KRAUSHAR

THOSE WHO are cynical about the value of new products and find it difficult to launch any new product development programme will follow. Findus, which had 15 per cent of frozen food retail sales in 1977, has also paid much attention to new products and claims that as much as a fifth of its current turnover is in products launched during the past five years. The activity has undoubtedly been helped by the retail trade which has increased enormously its reneing and launching new products into test market or nationally.

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Technical News

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

RESEARCH Magnet for high field studies

When fully energised, the magnet, which has a contained energy of 150,000 Joules, can be switched at its full power supply because of the zero electrical resistance property of superconductors. This is to be compared with the continuing power requirement of several kW by a similar, water-cooled magnet wound with conventional materials.

The stainless steel former and the electrical insulation had to be designed to withstand temperature changes from just under 100°C, the temperature at which the niobium-tin superconductor is metallurgically formed in the wound state, to -269°C, the temperature at which the magnet normally operates. To avoid possible conductor fracture under either differential field stress (niobium-tin is extremely brittle) or a vacuum impregnation process with an appropriate thermosetting resin also had to be developed in the UK by British industry supported by the Department of Industry and the Atomic Energy Authority.

In designing and building the magnet, which weighs only 100 pounds but contains 13 miles of superconducting wire, the Thor engineers led by Dr. David Raynor supported by magnet specialist Francis Brown had to design to contain magnetic forces of some 80 tons and circumferential stresses on a conductor of only 0.4mm diameter, of over 25,000 pascals.

wire form of circular or similar cross section. These properties are of extreme importance in that they allow for the full mechanical support of the windings to contain the extremely high forces generated when the magnet is first cooled and then energised.

Thor Cryogenics, Hemley Road, Berisford, Oxford, OX85 340001.

ELECTRONICS Voltage to frequency

INTRODUCED by National Semiconductor is a new family of voltage to frequency converters with a guaranteed maximum linearity of 0.01 per cent at 10 kHz.

The devices, designated LM 131, can be operated in either direction: (v to f or f to v) and from a single power supply that can be anywhere between four and 40 volts.

The standard device has a gain temperature coefficient that will not exceed 150 parts per million per deg. C and is typically 30 ppm/deg. C.

The premium grade devices have a guaranteed TC of 50 ppm/deg. C maximum and would be used in analogue to digital conversion, precision frequency to voltage conversion, long-term integration and linear frequency modulation.

National Semiconductor is at 301, Hager Centre, Horne Lane, Bedford MK40 1TR (0234 211262).

AUTOMATION

Retrieval of many parts

AT ONE of the key plants involved in the production of the "Tornado" multi-role combat aircraft at the Preston works of British Aerospace, a fully automated system for storing and retrieving small parts is now in operation. Called Conserv-a-trieve, the machine handling system was built and installed by Vickers Automated Systems Division, PO Box 44, Swindon, Wiltshire (0793 82 3241).

The fully-automated system has replaced and combined into one two existing stores previously in separate locations. The vacated floor area amounted to 10,350 sq ft—the new automated store occupies an area of 4,120 sq ft, a saving of nearly 60 per cent.

Four of the newly-introduced machines handle a total of 22,000 parts for the Tornado fighter, and a further 10,000 standard parts for other British Aerospace aircraft, such as the Jaguar tactical strike fighter, the Lightning fighter and the Provost jet trainer.

The components range from bulkhead frames down to the smallest rivets. The dimensions in 42 in x 15 in high and the weight limit is 300 lb. The entire store consists of about 6,000 containers, 6 in and 12 in high, and the large size can hold parts up to 18 in in height.

The machine consists of facing banks of storage containers which rise as high as the building allows. An electronically controlled mini-load stacker runs between the banks and is directed to the required bin position by operator using a single keyboard which has a five figure location number.

According to the co-ordinates entered on the keyboard, a platform on the stacker travels to the appropriate vertical position and the stacker itself to the horizontal. An extraction device pulls the container on to the platform for delivery to the picking station.

The average time taken to retrieve and return a container is 47 seconds, and the current transaction rate is estimated to be 1,140 operations per man per week, compared with the old store rate of 972 per man per week—an increase of 17 per cent per man.

Systems installed on order, include telemetry (substation control), compensated weighing, conveyor control, plant simulation, railway signalling and flap-board display.

Application programs are provided by Vaughan in PROM form, alternatively a module is available to plug into the multi-processor that allows customers to condition or copy their own PROMs. Built-in test programs in PROM are incorporated in all systems which, in conjunction with a Monitor and Monitor panel, allow first line maintenance to be carried out by trained, but unskilled, staff.

Vaughan Systems and Programming, Amwell End, Ware, 0820 2282.

The system can cater for up to 126 channels of input and output, using extension crates. The equipment can withstand 0 to 55 degrees C and up to 95 per cent humidity.

Input/output drives include digital input and output with a variety of interface options giving full optical isolation suitable for noisy plant environments. A communication unit allows interfacing to equipment such as terminals, printers, VDU's, data loggers, that use the V24 (EIA) or 20 mA current loop interface standard with speeds up to 9600 bauds. Analogue modules are available for both input and output. Special units include a watchdog system, and a telemetry device developed to use the CEBG standard procedure. RAM or PROM memory can be chosen to suit the application up to 32K in total, and floppy disc drives can be provided to give a back-up storage where required.

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OFFSHORE INDUSTRIES

Works deep under the sea

A SUBMERSIBLE jet pump system which can be suspended from a vessel or stand on the sea bed is introduced by Alluvium Mining, Northgate House, 2 High Pavement, Basildon, Essex SS14 1EA (0268 73832).

Divers can use the jet pump dredge in underwater clearance, maintenance, trenching and offshore work. The system consists of a tubular frame within which are mounted an electrically driven high pressure water pump, mixing chamber, diffuser, 18-inch stilling tube and suction and discharge ports. Weighing about 1.5 tons, it can easily be handled by a 5-ton derrick.

The system can be used in depths down to 1,000 feet, can handle particles up to 6 inches in diameter, and has a maximum designed output of 60 tons an hour of free flowing sand with zero elevation when fitted with a 100 feet flexible suction pipe and a 100 feet discharge.

The jet pump has a mild steel body with wear resistant materials for the mixing chamber and diffuser to permit such abrasive materials as sand and gravel to be dredged. It is designed to allow 6-inch particles to be passed and incorporates a hatch so that blockages caused by irregularly shaped objects or entrained trash can be easily removed underwater. Similarly, the stilling tube has a stainless

steel screen to prevent entry of over-size trash.

Two suction points are provided: one has a vacuum adjust to regulate production and prevent collapse of the hose line. In addition, a take-off point for a remote jetting lance is provided so that divers can break up compacted material.

The first production unit is being supplied to a Scottish-based offshore maintenance company and will be used for offshore maintenance tasks in the North Sea.

A unit is currently operating in the North Sea in 600 feet of water on a pipeline maintenance contract removing silt from a trench prior to the replacement of a damaged section of oil pipeline.

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The big new name in engineering

NEI

NORTHERN ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

A MEMBER OF CLARKE CHAPMAN & REYNOLDS PARSONS

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INFLATION AND COMPANY NEWS

Toray forecasts return to profit

By Our Financial Staff

A STRIKING turnaround from losses to profits was forecast yesterday by Toray Industries, the largest producer of synthetic fibres in Japan.

The company made the prediction when unveiling its consolidated results for the year ended last March, which showed an overall loss of ¥3,760m, or \$18.8m, compared with profits of ¥177.7m of ¥3,760m.

This year's return to profits of ¥770m is expected.

However, the company's losses last year under the extent of the recession that has gripped the Japanese textile industry. Toray's consolidated sales last year dipped by 3 per cent to ¥494.4bn while the forecast of a return to profits in 1978-79 is not accompanied by any sustained revival in demand.

Group turnover for the current year is expected to emerge at ¥490bn.

Toray's results compare relatively favourably with those from Kanebo, where a consolidated loss of ¥9,350m, or \$49m, was incurred for the year ended April. Unlike Toray, Kanebo declined to provide any comparative figures with its fully consolidated accounts.

The company's problems stem from its three synthetic fibre divisions (rayon, acrylic and polyester), which between them account for some 55 per cent of total sales. A relative newcomer to these markets, Kanebo is generally expected to have been forced into price cutting on a more substantial scale than most of its competitors.

Toray said yesterday that a sluggish domestic synthetic textile market and a drop in export sales due to the yen's sharp appreciation against the dollar were responsible for the sales fall. Factors contributing to the year's losses included a sharp fall in parent company net income and a slump in some overseas subsidiaries, including a Hong Kong-based operation. By contrast domestic companies owned jointly with foreign partners "performed well."

Setback at Steelbrite

JOHANNESBURG, August 30.

THE RECESSION in South Africa's building industry is reflected in the preliminary results from one of the country's largest kitchen equipment manufacturers, Steelbrite. After a first-half net loss of R132,000, the company has now reported a further deterioration and a loss of R695,000 (\$800,000) in the second six months to June 30, 1978.

After the first half, Steelbrite, which is 63.7 per cent owned by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, predicted no second-half improvement despite a rationalisation of its manufacturing divisions. The same prediction is repeated for the current period, and with little likelihood of new building starts recovering in anything but the medium term, a return to profitability is some way off.

Richard Rolfe adds: The industrial conglomerate Calan, whose interests range through lighting, plastics and rubber, has reported its first profits setback for more than a decade in the 12 months to June 30. On turnover up from R121m to R132m (\$153m), income before tax fell from R8.7m to R8.9m (\$8m). After adjustment for minority interests and income tax, income was down from R5.7m to R4.5m. On this basis earnings per share were down from 81 cents to 61 cents, but the income statement takes in net attributable income of associates of R0.7m for earnings, with this reckoning, down from 88 cents to 70 cents.

BHP sees some signs of improvement in demand

BY JAMES FORTH

SYDNEY, August 30.

THE directors of Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Australia's largest company and its sole steel producer, were cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the group in 1978-79 in its 10-day annual report. They said the importance of government involvement in reducing the inflation rate was recognised, but added that the low rate of growth in economic activity had a depressing effect on both local and overseas demand for most of BHP's products.

"None the less, the Australian economy does continue to grow slowly, and some signs of improved demand for steel are now apparent. Export prices for steel have risen," they said.

BHP previously reported a jump in group profit for the year from A\$82m to A\$84m (US\$97m) mainly due to a lift in earnings from oil and gas from A\$79m to A\$104m, and a reduced loss of A\$43m from steel operations.

The report disclosed that orders for steel from Australian customers rose 7.5 per cent during the year. The automotive industry, historically a large market, was particularly affected and orders were at their lowest level for four years.

Steel imports also affected some of BHP's subsidiary and associated companies. Raw steel

production dipped slightly from 7.47m tonnes to 7.35m tonnes, while iron ore shipments and despatches to the domestic market were almost unchanged at 3.75m tonnes. Exports of iron ore from the Deepdale iron ore project in Western Australia, was continuing, but the recession in the world steel market meant the immediate outlook for additional sales of iron ore was not encouraging.

On the oil and gas activities, the directors pointed out that the proportion of Bass Strait crude received import parity, less a production levy of A\$3.00 a barrel, rose from 19 per cent to 26 per cent on July 1. The report was written before the 1978-79 Federal Budget, which imposed a much heavier levy on consumers on remaining production to lift all oil produced to world oil prices.

The directors said they believed the government's recent decision not to impose a second oil tax on earnings from "old" oil was correct, and to have done so would have imposed an artificial low selling price on crude produced would have been unique and, in terms of national objectives of facilitating exploration and the financing of subsequent development, was unproductive.

MEDIUM TERM CREDITS

Further small loans for Spain

BY FRANCIS GHILES

SPANISH companies are continuing to raise relatively small loans in the syndicated credit market: the latest of these is a \$30m (which could be increased) 10 year loan on a spread of 1 per cent for the first three years rising to 2 per cent for the remainder. The loan is for Compania Telefonica Nacional de Espana. Lead manager is Chase Manhattan Ltd.

Other Spanish utilities will be raising loans in the months to come, but one major operation for the Kingdom is widely expected.

This operation may be for as much as \$1bn, but any higher figure is firmly ruled out in Madrid. Spain is expected to borrow about \$1bn less this year than was expected last spring. The Kingdom has already borrowed \$1.4bn so far this year, about \$400m more than over the same eight month period of last year.

Another European borrower is currently raising money: Asea AB, the Swedish state-owned producer of sawn timber, is arranging a \$45m 10-year loan through a group of three banks: PK Banken, Svenska Handelsbanken and Hambros. The spread being paid by the borrower is understood to be under 1 per cent.

In South-East Asia, the Philippines National Oil Company is raising \$64m for 10 years on a split spread of 1 per cent for the first five years rising to 1 per cent. Part of the proceeds of this loan, which is being led by Chase Manhattan Asia, will help refinance earlier loans arranged by this borrower.

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Dollar closes below best level

BY DAVID BUCHAN

THE U.S. dollar closed below its best level against most major currencies in yesterday's foreign exchange market with conditions described as being fairly active.

Early trading saw the U.S. currency slightly weaker but news that some U.S. banks had increased their prime rates by 1 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent boosted the dollar. However, it finished below its best level for the day on renewed fears that the U.S. inflation rate could continue to accelerate.

Against the Swiss franc, the dollar touched Sfr 1.6570 at one point after a low of Sfr 1.6220. It closed at Sfr 1.6480 compared with Sfr 1.6350 on Tuesday. The West German mark closed slightly firmer at DM 1.9880 from DM 1.9810 having touched a low point of DM 1.9685.

Using Morgan Guaranty figures at noon in New York, the dollar's trade-weighted average depreciation widened to 0.2 per cent compared with 8.9 per cent previously.

Sterling opened at \$1.9430-1.9445 and with an initially weaker dollar, touched a best level of \$1.9450. However, positions were reversed during the afternoon and the pound fell to \$1.9365 before recovering to close at \$1.9400-1.9420, a fall of 45 points on Tuesday's close.

On the London market, sterling's trade-weighted index was unchanged at 62.4, having stood at 62.3 at noon and 62.5 in the morning.

NEW YORK: The dollar had a better than expected day following the U.S. dollar's trade-weighted index was unchanged at 62.4, having stood at 62.3 at noon and 62.5 in the morning.

Several U.S. banks, including Citicorp, raised their prime rates by 1 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent. This is the first rise since the 3 per cent level became month funds were quoted at 7 1/2 per cent compared with 7 1/4 per cent previously, while six-month money market rates were unchanged at 7 1/4 per cent and 7 1/4 per cent respectively.

Late yesterday the dollar was quoted against the mark at DM1.9825 (DM1.9850 last night) against the Sfr 1.6485 (Sfr 1.6235) against the yen ¥139.10 (¥139.20) and against sterling \$1.9370 (\$1.9400).

FRANKFURT: The dollar was fixed at DM 1.9835 compared with DM 1.9825 earlier on and Tuesday's closing of DM 2.0224. However, some sources suggested that the dollar may stabilise around its current levels ahead of any further news out of the U.S.

Official intervention was not detected at the fixing although there may have been some support through interbank dealings. In later trading the U.S. currency stood at DM 1.9927, an improvement on the fixing but below its best level of DM 1.9975.

ZURICH: Although above its worst levels, the dollar was somewhat weaker against most major currencies in the moderately active trading. Recent measures to improve the dollar's position have been nullified by recent trade figures for July. The authorities have declined to intervene early on in the day and the dollar was quoted at Sfr 1.6317, up from Sfr 1.6300.

PARIS: The dollar staged a slight recovery against most currencies following moves by some U.S. banks to increase their prime rates to 9 1/2 per cent from 9 per cent. In early trading the dollar was quoted at FF 4.3755, up from FF 4.3745 earlier on but down on Tuesday's late level of FF 4.3750.

TOKYO: The U.S. dollar continued to suffer the effects of July's \$2.99bn trade deficit and fell to ¥188.20 at one point before recovering to the close to ¥187.25 compared with ¥184.30 on Tuesday.

MILAN: In early trading the dollar continued to lose ground against the lira as economic considerations brought further pressure on the U.S. currency. The dollar was quoted at L.835.5 against the previous fixing of L.845.30.

EXCHANGE CROSS-RATES

Aug. 30	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.0000	2.94	3.36	367.0	6.55	5.20	3.76	1936.0	70.9	33.3
U.S. Dollar	0.34	1.0000	1.93	109.1	4.85	1.66	2.04	162.1	2.31	60.70
Deutsche Mark	0.29	0.52	1.0000	100.0	2.01	0.68	1.08	419.8	0.97	15.73
Japanese Yen	0.0027	0.0091	0.0091	1.0000	23.04	8.70	11.44	441.6	0.078	16.54
French Franc	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.20	1.0000	0.71	0.96	191.6	0.26	71.77
Swiss Franc	0.19	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1.0000	1.31	507.2	0.698	19.00
Dutch Guilder	0.37	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.0000	365.8	0.53	14.45
Italian Lira	3.36	4.36	4.36	4.36	4.36	4.36	4.36	1.0000	1.37	57.46
Canada Dollar	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.0000	27.21
Belgian Franc	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1.0000

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES*

Aug. 30	Sterling	Canadian Dollar	U.S. Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Asian \$	Japanese Yen
Three months	12.12	9.14	8.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14
Six months	10.14	8.14	7.14	8.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14
Nine months	11.14	9.14	8.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14
One year	12.14	10.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14	16.14

*The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: One month 8.64-8.65 per cent; three months 8.66-8.67 per cent; six months 8.68-8.69 per cent; one year 8.70-8.71 per cent. Long-term Eurodollar deposits: two years 9.14-9.15 per cent; three years 9.16-9.17 per cent; four years 9.18-9.19 per cent; five years 9.20-9.21 per cent. Short-term rates are for sterling, U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars; two days' notice for guilders and Swiss francs. Asian rates are closing rates in Singapore.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKET

U.S. prime rates up

Several U.S. banks, including Citicorp, raised their prime rates by 1 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent. This is the first rise since the 3 per cent level became month funds were quoted at 7 1/2 per cent compared with 7 1/4 per cent previously, while six-month money market rates were unchanged at 7 1/4 per cent and 7 1/4 per cent respectively.

UK MONEY MARKET

Very large help

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 10 per cent (since June 8, 1978).

Day-to-day credit was in unbroken demand in the London money market yesterday, following a forecast of a slight surplus on the day. The excess of Government disbursements over revenue payments to the Exchequer was not as large as expected, although the market was also helped by a slight fall in the note circulation, and modest surplus balances carried over by the banks.

LONDON MONEY RATES

Aug. 30	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Overnight	12.12	9.14	8.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14
Three months	10.14	8.14	7.14	8.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14
Six months	11.14	9.14	8.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14
Nine months	12.14	10.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14	16.14
One year	13.14	11.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14	16.14	17.14

THE POUND SPOT

Aug. 30	Bank	Rate	Day's Spread	Close
U.S. \$	7 1/4	1.9370-1.9380	1.9380-1.9390	1.9380-1.9390
Canadian \$	8	2.2840-2.2850	2.2850-2.2860	2.2850-2.2860
Deutsche M.	4 1/4	3.3600-3.3610	3.3610-3.3620	3.3610-3.3620
Japanese Y.	100	184.30-184.40	184.40-184.50	184.40-184.50
French F.	6 1/2	4.3745-4.3755	4.3755-4.3765	4.3755-4.3765
Swiss F.	5 1/2	5.2000-5.2010	5.2010-5.2020	5.2010-5.2020
Dutch G.	3 3/4	3.7600-3.7610	3.7610-3.7620	3.7610-3.7620
Italian L.	1936	1936.00-1936.10	1936.10-1936.20	1936.10-1936.20
Canada D.	70.9	70.90-70.91	70.91-70.92	70.91-70.92
Belgian F.	33.3	33.30-33.31	33.31-33.32	33.31-33.32

FORWARD AGAINST £

Time	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
U.S. \$	1.9380-1.9390	1.9390-1.9400	1.9400-1.9410	1.9410-1.9420
Canadian \$	2.2850-2.2860	2.2860-2.2870	2.2870-2.2880	2.2880-2.2890
Deutsche M.	3.3610-3.3620	3.3620-3.3630	3.3630-3.3640	3.3640-3.3650
Japanese Y.	184.50-184.60	184.60-184.70	184.70-184.80	184.80-184.90
French F.	4.3765-4.3775	4.3775-4.3785	4.3785-4.3795	4.3795-4.3805
Swiss F.	5.2020-5.2030	5.2030-5.2040	5.2040-5.2050	5.2050-5.2060
Dutch G.	3.7620-3.7630	3.7630-3.7640	3.7640-3.7650	3.7650-3.7660
Italian L.	1936.20-1936.30	1936.30-1936.40	1936.40-1936.50	1936.50-1936.60
Canada D.	70.92-70.93	70.93-70.94	70.94-70.95	70.95-70.96
Belgian F.	33.32-33.33	33.33-33.34	33.34-33.35	33.35-33.36

THE DOLLAR-SPOT

Aug. 30	Bank	Rate	Day's Spread	Close
U.S. \$	7 1/4	1.9370-1.9380	1.9380-1.9390	1.9380-1.9390
Canadian \$	8	2.2840-2.2850	2.2850-2.2860	2.2850-2.2860
Deutsche M.	4 1/4	3.3600-3.3610	3.3610-3.3620	3.3610-3.3620
Japanese Y.	100	184.30-184.40	184.40-184.50	184.40-184.50
French F.	6 1/2	4.3745-4.3755	4.3755-4.3765	4.3755-4.3765
Swiss F.	5 1/2	5.2000-5.2010	5.2010-5.2020	5.2010-5.2020
Dutch G.	3 3/4	3.7600-3.7610	3.7610-3.7620	3.7610-3.7620
Italian L.	1936	1936.00-1936.10	1936.10-1936.20	1936.10-1936.20
Canada D.	70.9	70.90-70.91	70.91-70.92	70.91-70.92
Belgian F.	33.3	33.30-33.31	33.31-33.32	33.31-33.32

FORWARD AGAINST \$

Time	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
U.S. \$	1.9380-1.9390	1.9390-1.9400	1.9400-1.9410	1.9410-1.9420
Canadian \$	2.2850-2.2860	2.2860-2.2870	2.2870-2.2880	2.2880-2.2890
Deutsche M.	3.3610-3.3620	3.3620-3.3630	3.3630-3.3640	3.3640-3.3650
Japanese Y.	184.50-184.60	184.60-184.70	184.70-184.80	184.80-184.90
French F.	4.3765-4.3775	4.3775-4.3785	4.3785-4.3795	4.3795-4.3805
Swiss F.	5.2020-5.2030	5.2030-5.2040	5.2040-5.2050	5.2050-5.2060
Dutch G.	3.7620-3.7630	3.7630-3.7640	3.7640-3.7650	3.7650-3.7660
Italian L.	1936.20-1936.30	1936.30-1936.40	1936.40-1936.50	1936.50-1936.60
Canada D.	70.92-70.93	70.93-70.94	70.94-70.95	70.95-70.96
Belgian F.	33.32-33.33	33.33-33.34	33.34-33.35	33.35-33.36

CURRENCY RATES

Singapore Dollar.....	4.3650-4.3800	2.2555-2.2575	United States.....	1.937-1.95
South African Rand.....	1.5794-1.7045	0.8547-0.8780	Yugoslavia.....	39.00-42.00

Rate sheet for Argentina is free rate.

French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
4.958	5.195	4.200	1621.	2.231	61.27
4.357	1.646	2.164	834.9	1.149	50.70
2.191	4.828	1.068	419.8	0.578	15.75
23.04	8.706	11.44	4416.	6.379	165.4
10.	3.778	4.956	1916.	2.638	71.77
2.647	1.	1.315	907.2	0.688	19.00

FARMING AND RAW MATERIALS

Locust threat in Ethiopia

GENEVA, August 28.

SWARMS of locusts are threatening crops in three north central Ethiopian provinces already affected by drought, the League of Red Cross Societies said here.

The Desert Locust Control Organisation for East Africa is trying to combat the swarms with aerial spraying, but is handicapped by insufficient planes and bad flying conditions.

The drought, causing severe food shortages for nearly 2m people in Ethiopia, especially in Western Wollo province, now affects all eight districts of Tigray province and three districts of Gondar province.

U.S. palm oil imports fall

WASHINGTON, August 30.

U.S. IMPORTS of palm oil during July fell to 19.1m lbs from 26.4m in June and were down from 35.0m in July 1977, census bureau figures show.

The bulk of the July imports came from Malaysia (18.0m lbs). Other suppliers were Canada and Liberia.

In the first seven months of 1978 palm oil imports were 219.7m lbs, compared with 333.4m lbs in the comparable period a year ago.

Reuter

Kill hens to save egg trade, say farmers

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE EGGS AUTHORITY is pressuring farmers to introduce a subsidised slaughter scheme to kill off 2.5m surplus laying hens. A decision is expected at a meeting on Thursday next week.

Appearing for action yesterday, Mr. Mike Weller, chairman of the National Farmers' Union poultry committee, said egg producers should be compensated with a payment of 20p for every bird killed.

The cost, he said, would be borne by the egg industry as a whole. A special levy could be collected on every laying chick sold.

Other proposals before the Eggs Authority, the industry's media marketing and advisory organisation, include a plan to sell off 11m eggs a week cheaply to processors.

This would reduce the glut of eggs depressing the retail market and push up prices in the home. Mr. Weller said it would not get to the root of the problem. Many more young birds were approaching the age when they would start laying and "in no time we would be back to square one."

Egg industry representatives have had a series of meetings in recent weeks, and Mr. Weller claimed there was general support for the hen-culling option.

However, he added, some sectors had doubts because of the necessity to have such a scheme blessed by the Government and then by the EEC Commission in Brussels.

There were fears that by the time all the proper channels had been negotiated the crisis would be out of control.

However, Mr. Weller insisted that if all interested parties were to back the plan and the industry itself bore the cost, there was a good chance that the scheme could be in operation by the beginning of October.

Egg producers have been losing 100c for more than five months although they have consistently ignored warnings that they were over-stocking with young birds. Now, the NFU says, losses are costing farmers 10p a dozen.

The cost of culling 2.5m hens would be about £500,000, he said. Compared with the industry's current losses of £2m to £2.5m a week this was "chickenfeed."

A culling scheme was first proposed in June, when Mr. Denis Cummings, chief executive of the Eggs Authority, suggested that the slaughter of 500,000 old hens would restore balance to the market.

But a meeting of the authority decided such action was premature.

Bumper jute crop brings price slump

By Our Own Correspondent CALCUTTA, August 30.

A BUMPER Indian raw jute crop has brought prices crashing in the growing area (North Bengal, Assam and Bihar) to much below the statutory minimum of Rs.150 a quintal. Only a month ago raw jute prices at Ranchi, the principal market, were at Rs.225 against the official ceiling of Rs.225.

According to West Bengal's Minister of Agriculture, the prices of raw jute in most of the growing areas in West Bengal (which grows more than 50 per cent of the Indian crop) are now between Rs.125 and Rs.140 a quintal.

The Jute Corporation of India, which is to support purchases, has been asked to intensify its purchases by itself as well as through its co-operatives, to boost prices in the market. The Jute Commission, which is to support purchases, has been asked to intensify its purchases by itself as well as through its co-operatives, to boost prices in the market.

The maximum export rebate was set at 25,440 units of export per 100 kilos from 25,440 on the previous week.

Our Kingston correspondent writes: The current Jamaican sugar crop has so far yielded 288,941 tons, and there are indications that when the crop closes in a few weeks this will have reached 300,000 tons.

Production so far represents a recovery after an uncertain start to the season when several factories were closed by strikes. One of the island's larger factories is now closed by a strike.

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Anarchy in French potato market

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKES

THE DIFFICULTIES faced by French potato growers have been seriously shaken. The author is quick to draw the comparison between the dismal failure of producer groups to reduce the disorder in the French market and the private machinery or storage at risk.

And although the private wholesale trade is "portrayed as having few virtues, being circuitous and costly, as well as exploiting farmers" it is still the market.

The evidence to support this view is published at length in a report, released yesterday, which can only strengthen the British Government's resolve to insulate the UK market as far as possible from the unwelcome disruptive pressures which plague the Continental potato industry.

Fraud, the author declares, is commonplace among those in France charged with supplying and handling potatoes. It is seen as a simple not available because of a lack of interest among many growers and merchants.

To many growers and handling potatoes is seen as a gamble and is often welcomed as such," the report says.

But the main underlying fault in the industry springs from the multiplicity of interests involved. The French potato industry is made up of 800,000 farmers growing potatoes in France. About 750,000 of these are small-scale producers.

These small-scale producers are the mainstay of the industry. They are the ones who are most vulnerable to the anarchy of the market.

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outcome of the pending case in the European court regarding the import ban in the UK," the Board said in its weekly market report.

Market prices have steadied a little this week, although supplies are still well below the guaranteed level. Lowest prices recorded in 220 tonnes and the highest £42.50.

Much will depend on the size of any surplus and on the handling of the bulk of the French potato crop.

Government-backed co-operatives and similar groups have had a singular lack of success in attracting the growers.

Interest in co-operative activities appears to have been waning since the end of the 1960s with some organisations disappearing and the membership of others declining.

The Dutch, the author concludes, would doubtless favour an unfettered free EEC market in which competitive forces would finish off the inefficient, small-scale producers.

Since there are some 750,000 of these French growers to be considered, the social repercussions preclude such a ruthless approach.

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So the final resolution of the difficulties facing the potato sector in France must await the movements in the agricultural industry as a whole begun by the French Government.

"In the meantime, however, the proposals put forward by the Commission of the EEC are unlikely to provide any substantial alleviation from the problems of instability and it seems that the Community is a long way from marshalling the resources of the French maincrop potato market."

The report, which was sponsored by the Potato Marketing Board, is published at a time when the ultimate Common Market weapon—action in the European Court of Justice—is being brought to bear on the intractable British Government.

It is perhaps a pity that the Commission of the EEC has not been able to avail itself of the earlier this year when it was pleading its case with Brussels and before the force of law was brought to bear.

The French Maincrop Potato Marketing System, Publications, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449,

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

INSURANCE AND PROPERTY BONDS

NOTES

†Address shown under Insurance and Property Bond Table.

130, Regent St., London W1R 5FZ. 01-439 7061 71 Lombard St., E.C3. 01-62
ChC Magd. Fd. 122.0 152.0 — Exempt 182.2 187.5

Depos. Pen. Fut. (1000)	109.91	----	----	Future Agd. Gthrbl.	44.00	----
*Prices in August 15.				Ret. Adj. Pens	125.90	----
†Weekly dealings.				Flex. Inv. Growth	103.7	111.3

* Offered price includes all expenses except agent's
* Not of tax on realised capital gains unless indicated by ϕ 9 (turnover gross, ϕ
* Yield before Jersey tax, ϕ Ex-subdivided

mission.
's price.
peaked.

FINANCE, LAND—Continued[illegible]

157	591	158	592	159	593	160	594	161	595	162	596	163	597	164	598	165	599	166	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700
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Thursday August 31 1978

THE £1,000 MILLION INVESTMENT EXPERIENCE

Canlife units

EXPERIENCE—WHERE EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Canlife Unit Trust Managers Limited, Canada Unit House, High Street, Porters, 2nd Floor, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

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Waldheim proposes 7,500 UN troops for Namibia to join Britain agrees to join airbus project

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

UNITED NATIONS, August 30.

UNITED NATIONS Security Council members will meet behind closed doors tomorrow to consider how to proceed with plans to mount massive UN military and civilian operations designed to help bring Namibia—South West Africa—to independence from South Africa.

In a written report to the council today, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General, proposed the dispatch to Namibia of 7,500 troops and a civilian team of about 1,200 officials and extra staff, as well as 360 civilian police.

Operation

Their task would be to maintain law and order and arrange, supervise and control elections to a constituent assembly, which, in turn, would formulate and approve a constitution leading to Namibian independence.

It would be by far the largest operation by the UN since it became involved in the Congo (now Zaire) in the 1960s. But it would also be very different from the Congo operation, which brought the UN to the brink of

bankruptcy. Both South Africa Council members will meet behind closed doors tomorrow to consider how to proceed with plans to mount massive UN military and civilian operations designed to help bring Namibia—South West Africa—to independence from South Africa.

The Namibia settlement plan drafted by Britain, the U.S., France, West Germany, and Canada, the Western members of the Security Council—on which Dr. Waldheim's recommendations were based—called for the withdrawal of all but 1,500 South African troops from the territory. This residue would be confined to one or two bases in the northern part of Namibia which is larger than France and Italy together.

Prisoners

Under the proposals, the South African authorities must scrap existing discriminatory laws, release political prisoners and enable those exiled to return to participate in the electoral process.

Dr. Waldheim said elections could be held seven months after the Security Council gave the word to get UNTAG under way. He also said that any idea of independence by the end of this year now was out of the question. This was the South African target and also specifically called for in the Western plan. The Secretary-General said delay in reaching agreement made it impossible to meet the December 31 deadline.

Britain agrees to join airbus project

BY LYNTON McLAIR

BRITAIN HAS agreed in principle to join the European Airbus consortium with France and West Germany. But Mr. Eric Varley, Industry Secretary, is understood to have told Mr. Joel le Theule, the French Transport Minister, last night that he is not prepared to force British Airways to buy the new A310 Airbus as a condition of entry to the project.

The formal British Government decision to join the Airbus programme is still expected within a few days. Mr. Varley is hoping that agreement with the French over continued freedom for British Airways over its aircraft buying policy can be reached before the end of the Farnborough air show on September 10.

M. le Theule flies to Bonn today to report to Herr Martin Gruner, the West German state secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs on the outcome of the London talks.

British Airways wants to buy the Boeing 757 airliner for its needs into the 1980s instead of the Airbus. The airline hopes to make a formal decision to buy the 757 early next year after Rolls-Royce has been given the expected go-ahead for the Dash 535 version of the RB 211 jet engine which would power the Boeing.

Free choice

The engine is backed by the National Enterprise Board, the Rolls-Royce holding organisation, which has urged British Aerospace and the Government to back the U.S. aircraft rather than the Airbus.

A Government announcement about joining the Airbus programme is likely to include the sanctioning of development funds for the Dash 535, so that British industry can benefit from the expected British Airways Boeing 757 order.

Mr. Varley, in his talks last night with the French Transport Minister, is understood to have impressed on M. le Theule the right of British Airways to choose its aircraft for commercial reasons. The airline was granted permission by the Government in July to buy 19 Boeing 757 airliners to replace ageing Trident 1s in a contract worth £120m.

The airline was also given permission to buy six British Aerospace One-Eleven jets for £30m in a move to placate Britain's aircraft workers.

The French, British and German ministers are understood to have agreed already on the likely British share of the Airbus programme, provided the other difficulties can be resolved. Britain is likely to contribute up to £100m, equivalent to 20 per cent of the total A310 development costs for the whole aircraft, much to the annoyance of the French.

Britain's Hawker Siddeley, now part of British Aerospace, designed and manufactured the wings for the A300. It made a substantial profit from the venture without incurring any development costs for the whole aircraft, much to the annoyance of the French.

FT Conference, Page 5

Burmah sells Australian gas and oil interests

BY KEVIN DONE IN LONDON AND JAMES FORTH IN SYDNEY

BURMAH OIL is selling all its remaining oil and gas exploration and production interests in Australia in a deal worth about £20.8m.

The sale takes in its shareholdings in three quoted Australian companies engaged in oil and gas exploration and production in the Cooper Basin, South Australia. Burmah's interests are being bought out by a group headed by Bond Corporation Holdings and Endeavour Resources.

Burmah stressed yesterday that the sale was not linked to its programme of selling off major assets, which ended in 1978.

In that year, Burmah had to realise assets worth £553.4m, which included the sale of its interests in the North Sea Ninian Field and 65 per cent of its share in the Thistle Field.

Investments

A year earlier, its disposals included the sale of £179m worth of shares in British Petroleum.

The disposals were necessary to help Burmah cope with the financial crisis of 1975.

By contrast, the sale of the Cooper Basin interests would allow funds to be released for investment in other business areas, the company said yesterday.

It is understood that Burmah has been open to an offer for some months, facing the prospect of investments in the Cooper Basin of £5m to £6m over the next three years.

Burmah is selling its 37.5 per cent interest in Santos, its 50.9 per cent interest in Basin Oil NL, and its 67 per cent interest in Reef Oil NL. These interests were held by Burmah Australia Exploration.

The price of the deal is A\$835m (about £20.8m), which will be paid over the period to the end of November next year. Last year, the profit attributable to the Burmah Group from this investment was A\$1.3m.

The three companies together control 46.6 per cent of the Cooper Basin joint venture, which involves 11 parties including a South Australian Government authority.

The consortium that has bought out the Burmah interests

Resources

The deal marks a major move back into natural resources for the Bond Group, which earlier this year acquired tin mining interests in New South Wales and Western Australia, and oil interests in Texas by buying 24.2 per cent of Endeavour Resources.

The Cooper Basin supplies natural gas to Sydney and Adelaide. It has proven reserves of about 3 trillion (million million) cubic feet of gas and about 314m barrels of oil and natural gas liquids.

Burmah sold its other Australian exploration interests in the North West Shelf natural gas project in 1975.

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Scotland considered for new Texas plant

BY JOHN LLOYD

TEXAS Instruments, the U.S. multinational semiconductor company, plans to set up a major plant in Europe. Central Scotland and the Irish Republic are the most favoured areas.

The company would not confirm a choice of site yesterday, nor would it say what the plant would produce. However, Mr. Robin Wilmut, managing director of Texas Instruments' UK subsidiary, said that there would be a "significant product announcement" next week.

The plant would employ around 2,500 people and would probably manufacture a range of semiconductor products, including instrumentation equipment. There has been some speculation that the company will expand its microprocessor capability in Europe.

The company has examined six possible "25-acre sites in the last two months. Inquiries have been made through the Scottish Council (Development and

Express decision today on new paper

By John Lloyd

PLANS FOR a new national daily paper, to be published by Express Newspapers from its Manchester plant, were being discussed by the Express Board last night. An announcement is expected to be made today.

Mr. Derek Jameson, editor of the Daily Express, said yesterday that the proposed paper would be a "Daily Mirror-Sun hybrid," and that it would compete with the Daily Express.

It would aim for a circulation of around 2m, and Mr. Jameson said he would keep "a fatherly eye" on its development.

The editor is likely to be Mr. Peter Grimditch, former deputy editor of Reveille magazine. He had been tipped for the job of editor of a new London evening newspaper which the Express group is also investigating.

More than three quarters of the 170 Daily Express Manchester editorial staff will be transferred to the new paper, which may be called the Daily Star.

Mr. Jameson said that it would attract northern sales by being able to include late news and late sports results. However, it was intended that it would be a fully national newspaper, "available in Cornwall and the north of Scotland the next morning."

A London editorial office independent of the Express, would handle national political and other news.

Today's announcement is likely to follow talks between Mr. Jocelyn Stevens, Express Newspapers' managing director and deputy chairman, and representatives of the Express unions in Manchester.

The new paper will face keen competition from the Sun, which sells more than 4m copies daily and has 4m advanced plans to print a Scottish edition in Glasgow.

The Glasgow-produced Sun could contain much of the same late sports and other news as the new Express newspaper.

Continued from Page 1

U.S. bank and BCCI

blue ink. The credit report contained a statement that Bank of America should have an officer present at BCCI at all times.

Mr. Kraus was also informed that the credit report said that BCCI had made a "substantial loan" to its subsidiary Kuwait International Finance Company.

In previous court proceedings, KIFCO admitted lending Faisal Saud Al-Fulali, a Kuwaiti businessman, \$5m, of which was used to pay for financial general stock purchased on his behalf.

Attached as an exhibit to Mr. Kraus affidavit is a copy of a Bank memorandum dated May 10, 1976, from Mr. Alvin Rice, recently retired vice-chairman of Bank of America, to Mr. Scudder Mersman, senior vice-president, in response to concern about BCCI.

After examining BCCI's banking practices, Mr. Rice concludes that BCCI "needs much tighter administrative control in the very broad sense."

Bank of America said today it would shortly be filing its own motion with the court which would respond to the statements made in the affidavit.

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